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Arms Negotiator Nazarkin Says 1989 'Decisive'
LD1112133088 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Geneva December 11 TASS—By a TASS correspondent:

Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations Organization produced a very strong impression on the participants in the current talks in Geneva on a ban on chemical weapons, said Ambassador Yuriy Nazarkin, the leader of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

He pointed out in an interview with TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev that the negotiators highly appreciated the combining of a profound philosophical approach to the cardinal problems of our times with specific steps to reduce Soviet arms and the armed forces, the steps which show that our new political thinking is backed up by practical deeds.

"Noteworthy is the fact that in his speech in New York the Soviet leader mentioned the elaboration of a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons among the main issues concerning Soviet-American relations and international politics. In so doing he expressed the view that there existed real prerequisites for making 1989 a decisive year in this process"

"The issue concerning a ban on chemical weapons has been firmly put on the agenda of both the Soviet-U.S. dialogue and the entire international politics", the Soviet diplomat went on to say.

"It was discussed during the Soviet-U.S. summits in Washington in December 1987 and in Moscow in summer 1988. Multilateral talks on this issue are also under way at the conference on disarmament. The evaluation of prospects of the talks, expressed by Gorbachev in New York, has been regarded by the negotiators as a realistic one based on a sound analysis of the situation".

"Those foreign representatives with whom I conversed agree that the chemical weapons ban issue has come to a head, so to say. The main political tangles of a future convention have been in principle undone now. I emphasise—the main tangles—because there are, of course, a number of other matters which are yet to be tackled".

"Next, a vast amount of work has been done to prepare the technical aspects of the future convention, which is likewise of great importance. This applies, first of all, to verification issues. It is also of importance that there are signs of possible favourable changes in the U.S. stand".

"During the election campaign U.S. President-elect George Bush repeatedly emphasised a high priority of the chemical weapons ban issue to him. He also recalled the fact that he as the U.S. vice-president had tabled an American draft convention banning chemical weapons at the conference on disarmament in 1984. In one of his election speeches he even stated that he would like to be known as a president who together with U.S. allies, together with the Soviet Union and other countries brought the world to the elimination of chemical weapons".

"Favourable changes take place in the attitudes of other countries as well. Quite recently French President Francois Mitterrand announced an important positive development of the French attitude, emphasising that following the convention's entering into force all production of chemical weapons should be stopped and chemical weapon-producing plants should be closed down".

"So one can say there are prerequisites for really making 1989 a decisive year in the cause of concluding such a convention."

U.S. Issues Statement on INF Anniversary
LD0912130888 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 9 TASS—The White House on Thursday released a statement on the first anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

Under this agreement, signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev at their Washington summit, the statement said, "For the first time in history an entire class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles will be eliminated."

"The elimination of U.S. and Soviet INF missiles systems is well under way," the statement said. Both sides were continuing the elimination process started in August in the presence of inspectors from other side.

"In addition to monitoring the destruction of missiles, U.S. and Soviet inspectors have also conducted inspections at 130 Soviet facilities and 31 U.S. INF facilities, and each side has established a continuous monitoring presence at a key missile facility in the other's territory."

The White House statement noted that "since the signing of the INF Treaty, the U.S. has continued its efforts to acheive a safer world, including through negotiations for deep, equitable, and verifiable reductions in strategic arsenals, a stable balance in conventional forces in Europe, an effectively verifiable global ban on chemical weapons and effective and verifiable agreements on nuclear testing limitations."

The signing of the INF Treaty one year ago was a "good first step," the statement pointed.

While emphasising the significance of the INF Treaty, the White House seeks to prove that its conclusion was possible only thanks to the "perseverance" displayed by the United States and its NATO allies.

What is forgotten is that in making an agreement of historic dimensions it is not enough for one side only to display "perseverance". What is needed is accord and political will from both sides.

General Staff Spokesman Defends Arms Cuts

PM1012180188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with Major General Yuriy Aleksandrovich Markelov, representative of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by S. Guk: "Why We Are Reducing Our Army. Representative of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff on the New Soviet Initiative;" date, place not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The Soviet Union has made the decision to reduce the numerical strength of the Armed Forces and substantially reduce the volume of conventional arms over the next 2 years. In the European part of the country and on the territory of our European allies the USSR Armed Forces will be reduced by 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems, and 800 combat aircraft. IZVESTIYA asked Major General Yuriy Aleksandrovich Markelov, representative of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, to comment on this event, which has elicited a great response in the world.

[Guk] This decision will probably not only meet with support but also create fear in some people: Are we not disarming to too great an extent? What position do you personally take on this question?

[Markelov] There might be different opinions here. As a military man, I consider this decision correct and timely. It is not enough just to talk about peace, security, and trust. It is also necessary to act in this direction.

[Guk] In that case you, as a champion of reduction, can explain why, for example, in addition to tanks, where the imbalance is in our favor, we are also eliminating combat aircraft. NATO's superiority in this sphere is universally recognized.

[Markelov] In taking this step we have linked it neither with imbalances nor with the talks under the mandate of the Vienna meeting. We are making a switch in practice to the principle of reasonable sufficiency for defense, as M.S. Gorbachev declared from the UN rostrum. We will make reductions to the extent and in those types of arms that we consider possible, while at the same time maintaining the USSR's defense capability at a level of reasonable and reliable sufficiency such that no one is tempted to encroach on the security of our country and its allies.

[Guk] The West has reacted very positively to this action. However, there have already been some—albeit not many—politicians and mass media that have hastened to declare that this reduction changes nothing in the overall balance of forces, and the USSR supposedly still retains its superiority, while one newspaper has even written that probably not the latest models of tanks, artillery, and aircraft will be reduced and, moreover, the West is not in a position to verify the reduction. Please reply to your opponents.

[Markelov] In my view, these voices are not what counts. Such insinuations profit only those who would like to continue the arms race unimpeded and speculate on the "Soviet military threat." Our unilateral action is a hindrance to such people.

I have already had occasion to say to our Western opponents that if the USSR were even to eliminate all its arms, it cannot be ruled out that opponents of disarmament would start reckoning up the number of hunting rifles that our population owns. The partners in the discussion only laughed in reply, but they did not object.

Until the decision on a reduction no one in the West cast any doubt on the combat qualities of our tanks. On the contrary, people there always declared that they pose a threat to NATO. But now that this "threat" is being reduced—it is a question of 10,000 tanks numerically equivalent to the tanks of almost 30 U.S. tank divisions—they are again trying to convince the world public that these tanks are no threat to NATO. Not to mention reducing the Soviet Army's complement by 500,000 men—a figure equal to the strength of the entire FRG Bundeswehr. Regarding your question about verification: It is generally known that such large-scale measures cannot be concealed. As for the withdrawal of six tank divisions from the territories of the GDR, the CSSR, and Hungary, it will obviously be carried out in the spirit of glasnost and openness.

[Guk] Does it not turn out that, by making a unilateral reduction of such a quantity of armed forces, we thereby acknowledge the Warsaw Pact's superiority over the West?

[Markelov] There is no superiority. Approximate military equilibrium exists between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. And this is acknowledged by serious politicians in the West. It is another matter if you start to use the method which NATO statisticians use—they take into account, for example, all our divisions, right up to the Far Eastern borders, while at the same time ruling out the reckoning of U.S. formations on U.S. territory. Or they compare the armed forces of the two military alliances while excluding from them the naval forces, with regard to which NATO has the overwhelming advantage. In this way it is possible to prove any "superiority."

We are guided by the new political thinking and the defensive nature of Soviet military doctrine in reducing our armed forces. Life confirms that an arms buildup in itself does not create additional security.

[Guk] Why is the reduction due to take 2 years? Could this really not be done more quickly?

[Markelov] This is the optimum time for carrying out an organized withdrawal of personnel and hardware from the groups of Soviet forces stationed in the GDR, the CSSR, and Hungary—for six tank divisions will be disbanded, and landing and assault and certain other formations and units, including landing and river crossing ones, will be withdrawn with their armament and combat hardware. Still more considerable reductions are to be made on USSR territory. Questions of finding jobs for people and providing them with housing will have to be resolved—all these are major social problems.

[Guk] How will the arms reduction take place? Will everything really be turned into scrap metal, or will it be possible to use something in the national economy?

[Markelov] I do not think that everything will go to be crushed or melted down. Hardware such as tow trucks, cranes, motor vehicles, river crossing means, and individual units and assemblies can be utilized successfully in the national economy.

[Guk] World agencies recently reported that NATO is discussing the idea of proposing mutual reductions of two-thirds in armed forces and offensive arms. What would our reaction be in that case?

[Markelov] Our side would obviously support such a proposal from the West. We are generally prepared for any deep reductions to which NATO will agree. The Soviet Union advocates that East and West build their armed forces on a mutual basis, guided by the principle of defense sufficiency.

'Military Expert' Outlines Armed Forces Cutbacks

LD0912180788 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Soviet Union confirmed in practice the defensive edge of its military doctrine, said today Major General Geliy Batenin, a military expert of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee [name and title as received]. In an interview with TASS he commented on some military aspects of the new Soviet peace initiatives put forth by Mikhail Gorbachev at the U.N. General Assembly.

General Batenin singles out, above all, Soviet decision on cutting the numerical strength of the Armed Forces by 500,000. The volume of conventional weapons will also dwindle considerably. "These cuts will be carried out unilateraly, outside the talks on a mandate of the Vienna meeting," the expert pointed out. Another Soviet decision, taken by agreement with the USSR's Warsaw Treaty allies, to withdraw six tank divisions from the GDR, Czechosovakia and Hungary by 1991 and to disband them, is an important element of the new initiatives, especially for Europe. Assault-landing and some other formations and units, including assault-crossing units with weapons and materiel, will be also withdrawn from groups of Soviet troops deployed in these countries. Soviet troops stationed in the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary will be cut by 50,000 men and their armaments, by 5,000 tanks. As for all Soviet divisions deployed for the time being on the territories of our allies, Geliy Batenin went on to say, they will be reorganized so that they would become clearly defensive in their structure after a major cutback of their tanks.

At the same time the USSR will reduce the numerical strength of the Armed Forces and the numbers of armaments in the European part of the USSR. All in all, the Soviet Armed Forces will be reduced by 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems and 800 combat aircraft in this part of the country and on the territories of our European allies.

The group of the Armed Forces in the Asian part of the USSR will be also reduced significantly in the next two years. By agreement with the Mongolian Government a major portion of Soviet troops temporarily stationed there will return home.

"All this indicates that words and deeds of the Soviet leadership do not differ," noted the general. "The ideas of new political thinking proclaimed by the Kremlin are being actively materialized in the practice of conducting world affairs."

Chernyshev—NATO Weapons Counts Inaccurate

LD0912220688 Moscow TASS in English 2148 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev.

The statement on control over conventional armaments, which has just been passed by the NATO Council's session at the level of foreign ministers, positively appraises the Soviet Union's unilateral steps to cut troops and armaments, proclaimed by Mikhail Gorbachev at the United Nations, and welcomes the USSR's readiness to introduce changes in dislocation of its forces.

The NATO countries, in their turn, put forward a general concept of proposals to lessen military confrontation between the two military-political alliances in Europe. Their proposals will doubtlessly be most thoroughly analysed by the Warsaw Treaty member-countries. One can already now make note of such constructive proposals as intorduction of general limits on the aggregate stocks of armaments in Europe, considerably lower, as

compared with the existing levels, establishment of sublevels on the quantity of armaments in certain parts of Europe, introduction of strict and reliable regime of control and verification, with the exchange of detailed data on the state and dislocation of the armed forces, and with the right of carrying out on-site inspections.

Noteworthy is the NATO's persisting unilateral approach to reductions, expected as a result of future negotiations: They provide for elimination of imbalances and asymmetries only in those spheres of armaments in which advantage is on the side of the Warsaw Treaty. The statement of the NATO Council's session says that the main threat to stability in Europe comes from weapons systems that can be used for large-scale offensive action—tanks, artillery and armoured carriers, and therefore, they believe, the "levelling" of the state of affairs should involve exactly these spheres.

Above all, one should like to note that the NATO's assertions, softly speaking, inaccurately characterise a real state of affairs even in the systems enumerated. In the sphere of tanks the advantage is really on the Warsaw Treaty's side. But, for instance, in the sphere of artillery this "advantage" was deliberately created by NATO analysts who calculate only artillery means of the 100 mm calibre and over. If one takes into account all artillery means, including 75 mm guns and 45 mm mortars, then it turns out that the NATO's advance reaches about 20,000 units. Therefore it is still necessary to specify the areas of "superiority" of that or other side, and the best way for that is, as was proposed by socialist countries, through a preliminary exchange of the data and their verification up to on-site inspections.

If one is to follow the Pentagon's data, it is clear that NATO has superiority in such elements of military might as fighter-bombers and assault planes, and also fire support helicopters. Historical experience shows that an attack begins with a massive use of aviation which paves the way to tanks. Why does the NATO leadership so stubbornly bypass the question of eliminating imbalances in those areas? Such an approach can be regarded only as the striving to resolve problems egoistically, to the detriment of real possibilities for stabilising the military equilibrium in Europe, which are mentioned in the Warsaw Treaty-proposed plan of mutual reduction of troops and conventional armaments in Europe. The Soviet leaders repeatedly pointed to the need for a mutual approach to elimination of imbalances and asymmetries.

The Soviet Union, which announced unilateral steps to cut its troops and armaments, specifically a considerable reduction of its tank group in Central Europe and a restructuring of the remaining divisions to lend the structure a defensive character, thereby showed that it is most seriously in the mood for scaling down the military confrontation on the continent. These steps should undoubtedly promote an accord at the future negotiations. The NATO countries, putting forth proposals which are not up to the principle of equality and undiminished security of the sides, are already now programming very serious difficulties at the forthcoming forum.

Soviet General on Danger of Arms Race

LD0912181888 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tbilisi December 9 TASS—"The policy of peace, proclaimed by the USSR, promises a peaceful future to mankind. This is confirmed once more by Mikhail Gorbachev's statement in the United Nations Organisation. It is highly symbolic that he came out with new peaceable proposals on the anniversary of the Soviet-American INF Treaty", a TASS correspondent was told by Lieutenant-General Irakliy Dzhordzhadze, academician of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia, a Soviet Caucasian republic. He is known as an expert in the theory of warfare and military art, in automated systems control processes.

"Mankind, however, is still threatened by a nuclear holocaust", the general continued. "The scientific and technological revolution, the growing nuclear potential have levelled out the chances of the opposite sides, but they are now chances of mutual destruction. The nuclear annihilation machinery has been automated to such an extent both in the East and the West, that an unforseeable accident is liable to occur. Electronics are liable to decide humankind's future most tragically without any human interference".

Irakliy Dzhordzhadze recalled that split seconds are needed for a computer to resolve the programmes fed into it. And if an unexpected blunder is committed by these machines, he said, nobody will have time to interfere with it. The deadly mechanism might trigger off just as quickly in the USSR and the United States. Nobody wants to be the loser, but in the contemporary situation nobody will be able to win the battle. This is exactly why it is necessary to eliminate not only medium- and smaller-range missiles.

As a military and scientist, and simply as an inhabitant of our planet, Dzhordzhadze continued, I fully share Mikhail Gorbachev's expressed view that the experience gleaned in the course of Soviet-American negotiations and the achieved agreements in the sphere of disarmament should be prized and multiplied. There is no alternative to this. The Americans themselves have calculated that the very first nuclear strikes will take a toll of 700 million people. This figure will include not more than three million military men, guilty of the catastrophe. The others will be civilians.

This is why, when the question of the SDI, the use of outer space for military purposes, is raised in the United States, it would be appropriate to consider what this may lead to, General Dzhordzhadze said in conclusion.

Warsaw Pact 'Experts' Discuss Cooperation
LD1012185488 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 10 Dec (TASS)—A meeting of experts from the foreign affairs and defense ministries of the Warsaw Pact states, with the participation of representatives of the allied armies, took place in Moscow at the headquarters of the joint armed forces on 8 and 9 December. Questions concerning the further improvement of the mechanism for cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Pact were examined.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Aboymov addressed those taking part in the meeting.

CEMA Technical Cooperation Session Held
LD1012001688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—The 39th session of the CEMA Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation took place in Moscow from 7 to 8 December.

The committee examined a series of questions connected with the further implementation of the integrated program for the scientific and technical progress of the CEMA member countries up to the year 2000, including proposals for major special-purpose scientific production and technological projects within the framework of the integrated program for the scientific and technical progress of the CEMA. These are projects of great importance for the development of the economy of the CEMA member countries and for the emergence of their production at the highest world level. Also examined were questions concerning the preparation of proposals for the renewal and development of the integrated program for the scientific and technical progress of CEMA up to the year 2010.

The committee discussed the organization and implementation of invention and patent work during economic and scientific-technical cooperation, and also some other questions concering the scientific-technical cooperation of the CEMA member countries.

CEMA Financial Commission Meets 6-8 Dec
LD1012001888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—The 49th session of the CEMA permanent commission on currency and financial questions took place in Moscow from 6 to 8 December. Taking part in it were delegations from the CEMA member countries, a delegation from the SFRY, and representatives of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank.

The commission discussed measures connected with the implementation of the decisions of the 43d—extraordinary—and the 44th CEMA sessions on further improving the currency and financial mechanism for cooperation among the CEMA member countries. In particular, questions were examined involving promising areas for further improving this mechanism, strengthening the monetary functions of the transferable ruble, use by the countries concerned of their national currencies in mutual economic links, and the development of a system of currency exchange rates.

The session took place in a businesslike and comradely atmosphere and in a spirit of complete mutual understanding and fraternal friendship.

Gorbachev Greets 'Creative Youth' Forum
PM0912104188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Undated greetings message from M. Gorbachev "To the Participants in the First Festival of Socialist Countries' Creative Youth"]

[Text] Dear friends!

I warmly welcome you, participants in the festival of socialist countries' creative youth, who have gathered in the Soviet Union for your first meeting.

The festival symbolizes the unity of young artists, writers, musicians, and artists, and figures in the theater and movies for a common noble aim—creating a new, genuinely humane and fair society.

It is for you, culture's young representatives, to multiply our peoples' spiritual traditions, establish values common to all mankind, and carry socialist ideals into the third millenium.

Tomorrow's world is the world of today's youth. And may your meeting serve to strengthen friendship, mutual enrichment, and consolidate the new thinking which is so essential to preserve civilization and life itself on earth.

I hope the festival participants have fine impressions from their stay in our country and I wish them every creative success.

M. Gorbachev

Gerasimov Notes Armenian 'Ringleaders' Detained

LD1212154288 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Nationalistic elements staged a demonstration in Yerevan on Saturday, with the participation of the so-called "Karabakh Committee", Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of Soviet Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing today, questioned by newsmen.

He said that the 600-people-strong demonstration was dispersed and 22 ringleaders were detained. Five of them have been placed under administrative arrest for 30 days. Gennadiy Gerasimov reported that some of the nationalist slogans alleged that an "action by Moscow" was in progress to "deport Armenian children from Armenia and to scatter them along the length and breadth of Russia."

Exposing these inventions, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that in these days newspapers carry touching cables in which Soviet citizens of different nationalities offer to accommodate—temporarily or permanently—Armenian children in their homes. This demonstrates the sympathy felt by the entire Soviet people for the Armenian people, for the Armenian children, he said.

Lev Voznesenskiy, chief of the Information Department of the USSR Council of Ministers, who also attended the briefing, said, referring to the Saturday developments in Yerevan, that it was above all an action engineered by the nationalistic elements. It is yet early to say who is actually behind these events, he said. "There are, however, serious grounds to assume that these nationalistic passions are being fanned above all by corrupt elements bent on creating disorder in the republic so that all those who have sullied their names during the stagnation period and fear being pulled out into the light of day, could not be weeded out," Lev Voznesenskiy said.

Nikiforov Holds News Conference 12 Dec

International Aid for Armenia

LD1212173188 Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—At a briefing today Valentin Nikiforov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, expressed the Soviet Union's gratitude to the peoples and governments, public organizations and individuals for their relief aid and moral support for the earthquake victims in Armenia.

Nikiforov said that the disaster-stricken areas of Armenia are receiving relief from 46 countries of Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Near, Middle and Far East. Helping Armenia today are 923 rescue workers from many countries, with 216 dogs trained to seek out people. By now, 38 planes from 23 countries have arrived in the Soviet Union with cargo for the earthquake victims and with specialised equipment, including 6 from France, 4 from the United States, 3 from the FRG, 4 from Sweden. And planes continue arriving.

Large relief is coming from the socialist countries in the form of fully-equipped field hospitals, first-aid centres, building equipment, medical instruments and medicines.

Nikiforov also reported that the FRG Government has made available 500 railway cars to house the people, and heavy building machines are being supplied both by the FRG Government and by individual West German firms. A large consignment of building equipment has come from Great Britain. Prefabricated homes, warm enough for winter conditions, are being flown to Armenia from Britain and Italy. Austria expressed its readiness to build in Armenia, free and quickly, a factory to manufacture such homes. A portable medical computer has been sent in from Luxembourg.

During the briefing, some foreign newsmen expressed their personal wish to aid the victims of the earthquake. They were given the number of the currency account of the Yerevan city affiliate of the USSR "Vnesheko-nombank". The number is 07000001.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister expressed profound condolences to the families of those who died when the Yugoslav plane crashed with a relief cargo for the earthquake victims. This happened near Yerevan last night.

Leonid Bibin, first deputy chairman of the USSR state committee on construction, reported the setting up of a commision of experts which has begun working out projects to build 5 million square meters of housing space, schools for 140 thousand pupils, pre-school establishments for 80 thousand children and a large number of hospitals and clinics. In designing the new buildings, the norms for the seismic resistance of structures, applied here previously, would be revised. According to preliminary estimates, Bibin said, the housing construction and the building of every-day services facilities would require the expenditure of around 5 billion rubles.

Yugoslav Plane Crashes

LD1212143788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1336 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Dec (TASS)—USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Nikiforov reported today that a Yugoslav airplane with a cargo of aid for earthquake victims crashed during the night on its approach to Yerevan. Seven people died.

Speaking at a briefing in the USSR Foreign Ministry press center, Valentin Nikiforov expressed his profound condolences to the families of those who died.

Boris Panyukov, USSR first deputy minister of civil aviation, who also took part in the briefing, added that the Yugoslav An-12 had flown an international route across Bulgaria and Turkey. It crossed the USSR border and made contact with the Yerevan airport. Contact between air traffic control and the aircraft had been maintained in English. In accordance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO], the crew was given all the necessary information for final approach. The aircraft took a straight landing path, but disappeared from radar screens 12 or 13 km from the airport. This occurred at 0223 Moscow time. Flights were interrupted for 2 hours. Following a search, fragments of the airplane have been found. All seven crew members were killed. A commission has been set up to investigate the causes of the disaster.

Boris Panyukov noted that the air traffic situation around the Yerevan Leninakan airports is fairly difficult, and the number of flights has increased by several times. Flights are being controlled by experienced teams of air traffic controllers from both civil and military aviation. Everything is being done in line with the norms and requirements of the ICAO. The Yerevan airport is equipped with all the necessary technical means to insure the safety of flights, including night flights. Should the need arise, the air traffic controllers warn the airplanes, which then land at Tbilisi, Baku, Sochi, or Sukhumi airports, from where the cargo are transferred to Armenia by other means of transportation.

Perfilyev Holds 9 Dec News Conference

Armenian Earthquake Relief

LD0912151088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—Immediately after returning from New York, Mikhail Gorbachev was informed today at the airport about the measures being taken to overcome the aftermath of the earthquake in Armenia, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, reported at a briefing. At the present time, he continued, the efforts of USSR ministries and departments are being coordinated to render assistance to Armenia, all exisitng information is being assessed, and the specific needs of the republic are being determined. This important work requires a certain amount of time and Mikhail Gorbachev will fly to Armenia when it is completed.

Lev Vosnesenskiy, head of the USSR Council of Ministers Information Department, who spoke at the briefing, reported that union and republican ministries are sending teams with equipment to the stricken areas to carry out rescue work. Civil transport aviation has been brought into use on a wide scale to deliver freight. The USSR Ministry of Defense has allocated 80 Il-76 and "Antey" transport aircraft.

Cranes for clearing away the rubble are being loaded. A minimum of 300 cranes with a carrying capacity of 16-40 tonnes are required. In the next few days it is planned to send to Armenia about 1,000 dump trucks, 100 buses, and 150 work-shift buses. The loading of mobile and prefabricated homes, as well as container-type homes, is under way. In the next few days 1,500 mobile homes, and about 1,000 prefabricated homes of various designs will be dispatched. Extra production of mobile and prefabricated houses is being organized.

Over the last 24 hours, 40,000 tents and a first batch of warm clothing—30,000 outfits—as well 50,000 warm blankets have reached Armenia. The USSR Ministry of Trade sent to Armenia last night two cargo planes carrying children's clothing, footwear, bed linens, and toilet requisites worth R500,000. The purchase of these goods was made with the Lenin Soviet Children's fund. Today preparations are being made to dispatch goods to the value of R2 million, donated by the Komsomol Central Committee. They consist of blankets, working clothes, bed linens, footwear, and plates and dishes.

The dispatch of canned meat and dairy products, clothing, and other goods valued at R1 million is being organized from Belorussia. In Moldavia, the decision has been taken to send, free of charge, as aid from labor collectives, fruit and vegetable products and clothing and footwear. Latvian trade unions have allocated R1 million for the purchase of preserved milk, canned fish, clothing, and other goods, which will be sent immediately to Armenia.

Vladimir Dubinyak, chief of staff of the internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, who took part in the briefing, announced that, in the parts of Armenia that had suffered from the earthquake, a 7,000-strong grouping of internal troops is concentrated, "whose sole task is to rescue people and provide them with necessary assistance."

Quake Aid Situation

LD1012001288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A briefing organized by the information directorates of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs was devoted to the alleviation of the consequences of the natural disaster in the Armenian SSR.

Comrade Denisov, first USSR deputy minister of health and member of the government commission for alleviating the consequences of the earthquake, stated:

[Begin Denisov recording] Medical aid is now being given at the center of the afflicted area by 100 medical detachments which have been formed by physicians from the Armenian SSR and 70 detachments which have been formed from among physicians who have come from

virtually all the union republics. They are actively participating in alleviating the consequences. Until today, according to information which the USSR Ministry of Health has at its disposal, over 5,000 victims have been hospitalized. I must say that, up until today, the USSR Ministry of Health has managed to satisfy all the Armenian republic's requirements for the necessary quantity of medical preparations and skilled medical aid. Now we are just periodically replacing that which is used. [end recording]

Lieutenant General Dubinyak, chief of staff of the internal forces of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, talked about the activities of Soviet servicemen in rendering assistance to the victims and alleviating the consequences of the earthquake.

Answering journalists' questions, Perfilyev, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, stated:

[Begin Perfilyev recording] As far as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's journey to Yerevan and to Armenia is concerned, it will take place immediately after arrival in Moscow. Mikhail Sergeyevich immediately got down to work at the airport, hearing the first information on how things are at the scene and concentrating his attention primarily on how efforts should be concentrated in providing assistance from the center. Of course, this is very important work which is going on at this moment. Here at the center in Moscow, some time is needed, and the departure for Armenia will take place upon completion of the most necessary things in this regard. [end recording]

Answers were also given to other questions on the matter. [video shows scenes on stage; camera focuses on each participant as he speaks or his remarks are summarized]

U.S. Middle East Stand Welcomed

LD0912163488 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The decisions of the recent session of the Palestine National Council mean an important step toward the ensurance of more favourable conditions for the solution of Arab-Israel conflict, settlement of the Palestinian problem, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here today. He said this is confirmed by the results of a meeting in Stockholm between a delegation of Palestine Liberation Organization and representatives of the American public participating in the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East.

In a joint statement on the meeting, the PLO emphasised its readiness for talks at an international conference on the Middle East on the basis of the U.N. Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338 and the ensurance of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The document confirms the recognition of Israel's existence as a state and condemns terrorism in all its forms. Thus the PLO again clearly demonstrated that it is a reliable and authoritative partner in peaceful negotiations.

Against this background, Vadim Perfilyev said, Israel's negative attitude to Palestinians' goodwill is deplorable. As to the United States, its attitude there is not unanimous. Sober voices are heard. In this connection, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out a statement by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who positively assessed the decisions of the Palestine National Council as being on the right track and emphasised that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without Palestinians' participation in the talks.

We, naturally, welcome the constructive features in the U.S. stance, Vadim Perfilyev said.

Talks on Cyprus Settlement

LD0912153988 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Soviet Union supports the efforts in the United Nations framework aimed at a peaceful political settlement of the Cyprus problem and assesses them as the manifestation of the awareness growing in the international community to establish a new equitable world order, said deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Vadim Perfilyev.

Speaking at a briefing here today he said that in accordance with the arrangement reached during the Cyprus Yeoryios Vasiliou and leader of Cyprus Turks Rauf Denktas had with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the second round of the talks between the communities will open in Nicosia on December 19. [sentence as received]

The international situation now favours the achievement of progress at the talks between the communities, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "At the same time, we believe it is important that a favourable atmosphere be maintained in Cyprus. We oppose any actions that can threaten a constructive dialogue between the communities", he said.

UN Marks Human Rights Declaration Anniversary

PM1212140988 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Noteworthy Anniversary"]

[Text] New York, 9 Dec—Delegates to the 43d UN General Assembly session have celebrated the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The observance of human rights is inseparable from peace, UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar stated when addressing representatives of the international community. The 40th anniversary of the declaration has coincided with a crucial moment in

world history when new and highly promising paths for joint actions are opening up. The consistent creation of an all-embracing system for protecting human rights is one of the United Nations' remarkable achievements.

The enduring significance of this document is that it reflects mankind's historical experience and enshrines the generally acknowledged principles and norms of respect for human rights, A.M. Belonogov, the USSR's permanent representative at the United Nations, said from the rostrum. The Soviet Union intends to participate more broadly in the UN's human rights control mechanisms and in the all-European process, he noted.

The General Assembly confirmed the UN's responsibility for the protection of human rights and basic freedoms and also the determination to take measures in connection with their violation. In the resolution which was adopted it urgently called on all states to observe the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration and also to examine the question of the ratification of a number of international conventions in development of its ideas and the question of affiliation to it.

Arctic Conference Opens in Leningrad

LD1212123788 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Leningrad December 12 TASS—An Arctic international conference has opened here today. Its purpose is to set up an international Arctic research committee charged with the coordination of international efforts in Arctic research, development of the region's resources and protection of the polar environment.

The idea of calling such a representative meeting was advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev in his Murmansk speech in autumn last year.

The conference is attended by more than 500 delegates, including prominent scientists and Artic experts for the USSR, Denmark, Iceland, Canada, Norway, USA, Finland and Sweden. The GDR, FRG, France and Japan have also dispatched their representatives to the Leningrad meeting.

"Our conference is taking place at a time when new political thinking in the solution of global problems is gaining momentum throughout the world", it was stressed by Academician Vladimir Sokolov, head of the Soviet delegation, who opened the conference.

The Soviet scientist recalled that the USSR had long-standing traditions and rich experience in polar exploration, in developing polar economy and transport services, in solving difficult demographic and social problems of the northern peoples. "The borders and interests of many nations converge on the Arctic", Academician Sokolov said. "We are convinced that our efforts, if pooled within the frameworks of the international community, could and should make a weighty contribution to the cause of universal peace and mutual understanding, should promote mankind's welfare and prosperity".

The conference scientific programme embraces a wide range of Arctic problems—from the structure of the earth's crust beneath the ice-bound Arctic ocean and solar-terrestrial interaction over the North Pole to the subtleties of polar medicine and cultures of the northern peoples.

Ryzhkov Sends Greetings

LD1112143988 Moscow TASS in English 1429 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—Follows the full text of the message of greetings from Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to participants in the Conference of Arctic States on coordinating research in the Arctic:

I cordially welcome the participants in the Conference of Arctic States who gathered to discuss the problems of coordinating research in the Arctic.

This confernece is held at an important period. The current positive changes in the international situation open before the states with different social and economic systems favourable prospects for a joint search and solution of the most complex problems of the present day. In this context northern countries play an important role, especially in tackling the issues of international security, developing confidence-building measures and strengthening peace.

The Arctic and northern expanses of our planet have a huge potential for constructive political, economic, scientific and technological cooperation. The interests of a number of states which use the huge, but still insufficiently studied, mineral resources of the Arctic converge here. The growing scale of these activities require from the Arctic states a responsible and balanced position, profound scientific research.

The Arctic also plays a major role in preserving the ecological balance on our planet. The nature of this region is exceptionally sensitive and vulnerable, it should be put to use with extreme caution and circumspection.

Therefore the Arctic urgently needs cooperation of scientists and specialists to work out coordinated scientific policy aimed at studying and developing the resources of the region and creating a system of international ecological security. Only joint efforts can help preserve the unique nature of this region, where unreasonable exploitation in some places has already caused extremely dangerous ecological changes in the environment, worsened the living standards of its population, especially indigenous one.

By uniting and cooperating, the scientists of Arctic states will set an excellent example of the new thinking which can ensure the general interests of mankind at present and in future.

I wish you fruitful work and success in your noble cause.

N.Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Returns, U.S. Visit Results Analyzed

Leaders Meet Gorbachev on Return

PM0912161988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Return to Moscow"]

[Text] Interrupting his foreign trip, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned to Moscow from New York 9 December. Arriving with M.S. Gorbachev were those accompanying him on the trip—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; A.N. Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

M.S. Gorbachev was met at the airport by CPSU Central Committee Politburo members L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, V.M. Chebrikov, and other officials.

Reagan Sums Up Visit

LD0912131988 Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 9 TASS—By TASS correspondents Igor Ignatyev and Nikolay Turkatenko:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan last night held what was perhaps his last official news conference in the east room of the White House, which was televised nationwide.

It was mostly devoted to the results achieved by his administration in various fields, primarily relations with the Soviet Union, and prospects for their development in the light of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's December 7 meeting in New York with Reagan and Vice-President George Bush, who is to become U.S. chief executive in six weeks.

The U.S. President said in his opening statement: "It was exactly one year ago today that an event here in this room spoke to the epoch-making nature of what has been achieved—the signing of the first treaty to eliminate an entire class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles.

"Even in the short year since then we've had the Moscow summit and Mr Gorbachev's visit here.

"In our neogitating agenda of regional conflicts, human rights, bilateral exchanges and arms reductions, we've seen a serious movement and even some breakthroughs. "And yesterday's address to the United Nations by President Gorbachev was not only a part of this process, it was the result of this process, and I congratulate him on it."

"So the path remains open and the pace of peace continues," Reagan went on. "This means our responsibilities have grown not less but more serious. We must remain resolute and without illusion, and we must speak candidly about fundamental points of difference. We must especially maintain our military strength. But we must also continue our course of vigorous diplomatic engagement."

Speaking on the Soviet leader's visit to the United Nations, Reagan described it as "historic". Regrettably, Gorbachev, he noted, "has had to return to the Soviet Union due to enormity of the tragedy in Armenia."

The U.S. President said he had conveyed the deep sympathy of the American people to the Soviet leader over the Armenian earthquake with its toll of human lives and stressed the Americans' "anxiousness to provide any humanitarian assistance" they possibly could.

He then fielded questions from reporters.

He was given, for example, this question: "Mr Gorbachev yesterday announced a major cutback in Soviet troop strength and he talked generally about nations relying less on military might. Do you think that Mr Gorbachev is trying to remake the Soviet Union into a less threatening country?".

"Yes, I do," Reagan replied, adding he thought highly of the Soviet decision.

To the followup question of whether the United States could take further steps to continue the process of arms reduction in the light of the Soviet leader's U.N. address, the President answered in the affirmative.

A number of newsmen persistently called Reagan's attention to the fact that outsize military spending tells adversely on the American economy.

"The nation is saddled with a 2.6-trillion-dollar debt, an enormous deficit, caused perhaps by the tripling of military spending," one reporter said. "How does all this jibe with the goals that you set eight years ago?"

But Reagan effectively ignored the substance of such questions, insisting that his Administration had annually asked Congress for fewer funds than the previous government had planned.

Asked to comment on "talk on Capitol Hill (in connection with the Soviet decision to reduce troop strength) that perhaps the U.S. can follow suit and in the process, reduce our defense spending and make an impact on the budget deficit," he said he did not foresee a possibility to

cut back such spending "until we have reached a parity at which then both sides can continue the reduction of weapons and keeping it at a parity".

Correspondent on Reagan Conference

PM0912185188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "President Sums Up"]

[Text] Washington, 9 Dec—President Reagan has held a news conference in the East Room of the White House, where the historic Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was sealed with the signatures of the leaders of the USSR and the United States 1 year ago.

To a certain extent this Reagan meeting with correspondents was a summing up of his administration's activity. And since many people here consider the President's greatest political achievement to be the smoothing out and normalization of relations with the Soviet Union, there was nothing surprising in the fact that he spoke chiefly about the present and future of cooperation between the two great powers.

An epoch-making event took place in this room 1 year ago, R. Reagan said—the signing of the first treaty on the destruction of an entire class of Soviet and U.S. nuclear missiles. Over the past year we have had a top-level meeting in Moscow, and Gorbachev has come here. At the talks on regional conflicts, human rights, bilateral exchanges, and arms reductions we have witnessed real progress and even some breakthroughs. President Gorbachev's UN speech was not only part of this process but also a result of it.

The road remains open, and peace is continuing its march, the President pointed out. This means that our responsibility has become not less but more serious. We must remain unshakable and not harbor illusions. We must speak frankly of fundamental disagreements. We must particularly maintain our military strength. But we must also continue the policy of vigorous diplomatic cooperation.

Reagan was not always consistent when answering correspondents' questions and made one-sided assessments. And yet commentators here were unanimous that, to use the ABC TV company's words, "he has made a 180-degree turn on the Soviet question." The President evaluated highly the USSR's decision on a unilateral reduction of its troops and arms.

At the same time Reagan repeatedly maintained that the declared reduction will not deprive the Soviet Union of "superiority" in conventional arms, and so no U.S. initiatives in response are possible, he said. Such statements plainly reflected the arguments of the Pentagon, which, following its initial numbness, is now vigorously trying to damp the tremendous sociopolitical response generated by the Soviet step.

The President was asked: In light of M.S. Gorbachev's UN speech, can any steps be taken to continue the arms reduction process? Oh yes, Reagan replied. We long ago said that as soon as we resolve the question of a strategic arms agreement, our next aim must be to start talks on reducing conventional arms.

A correspondent asked Reagan: The USSR and the United States were allies in World War II. Do you think that the start which you and Gorbachev have made will lead to a situation in which we will once again consider the USSR an ally, and conduct free and open trade with it on a large-scale basis?

Despite the positive nature of the President's reply, which did not rule out such a possibility, the words he chose grated upon the ears, as though proving the tenacity of the hackneyed allegations about the USSR's "expansionist policy" and so forth.

On the whole, although the President's statements, to use THE WASHINGTON POST's words, contained no special "revelations," his news conference confirmed that sooner or later life itself makes one revise ideas which do not correspond to present realities.

Reagan on U.S.-Soviet Ties

LD1112105188 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 11 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in a weekly radio address on Saturday, positively assessed the state of and prospects for Soviet-American relations.

"Since our first summit in Geneva three years ago, we've travelled a great journey that has seen remarkable progress, a journey we continue to travel together," the President said. He pointed out that important changes had taken place in the Soviet Union.

Touching upon the Soviet Union's important international initiatives set out by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech at the U.N. and the unilateral decision on reduction in the armed forces, the U.S. President said that if this vision of the world "is realised and these promises are turned into deeds, it would be the opening of a new era in international affairs".

"Perhaps, the most dramatic achievement came one year ago," Ronald Reagan went on to say, "When Mr Gorbachev and I signed the historic INF Treaty to eliminate an entire class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles."

"Next week, the prime ministers of two of our key NATO allies—Turkey and Italy—will visit Washington. And, certainly, along with other issues, we plan to discuss this week's visit by Mr Gorbachev, and the strategic situation in Europe."

"We welcome the Soviet force reductions that are promised. These unilateral reductions would, however, give a long-awaited encouragement for our efforts to achieve the genuine balance in conventional forces that would assure greater security and stability in Europe. In recent years we've seen hopes for the future restored and the change for the new U.S.-Soviet relationship emerge."

While welcoming "the Soviet force reductions that are promised," the U.S. President again maintained that "even after these redeployments are completed in 1991, the Warsaw Pact will still have a large conventional advantage" in Europe.

The Democratic Party's representatives in U.S. Congress viewed the ideas contained in the Soviet leader's speech at the U.N. as constructive and far-reaching.

We Americans have traditionally appreciated the bold stroke. At the United Nations this past Wednesday, Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev gave us a splendid example of a bold stroke," Thomas Foley, leader of the Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, stated on Saturday in a Democratic response to President Reagan's weekly radio address.

"The full import of General Secretary Gorbachev's plans remains for the weeks and months ahead," Foley went on to say. "But his remarks alone tell us how far the Soviet policy and our own relationship with the Soviet Union have come over the past few years".

Foley pointed out that the congressmen trust and believe that together with the incoming administration of President-elect Bush "we can usher in a new era of cooperation".

Radio Address Assesses Ties

PM1212100988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS dispatch "Ronald Reagan: We Have Come a Long Way"]

[Text] Washington, 11 Dec—U.S. President Reagan made a positive assessment of the state of and prospects for Soviet-American relations in his regular Saturday radio address. "Since our first summit in Geneva we have come a long way, a way that has seen remarkable progress, a way that we will continue to travel together," the head of the administration said.

Reagan said that "important changes" had taken place in the Soviet Union. The U.S. President emphasized that "the reforms promised by Mr Gorbachev at the United Nations fill me with hope, and I hope to see the current and past promises translated into reality." Dwelling on the important initiatives in the disarmament sphere, and in particular the decision on the reduction of the numerical strength of the USSR Armed Forces set forth by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech, the President noted that if they are translated into practice this will open "a new era in international relations." "We welcome the promised cuts," R. Reagan said. "These unilateral cuts provide a long-awaited impetus to our efforts aimed at achieving a real balance in conventional arms, and will ensure greater stability and security in Europe. In recent years we have seen the hopes for a free and peaceful future restored, and the opportunity for establishing new Soviet-American relations emerge." The President described as "probably the most outstanding achievement" of recent years the signing by the leaders of the USSR and the United States a year ago of the historic treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, eliminating a whole class of the two countries' nuclear missiles.

At the same time, R. Reagan again claimed that even by 1991, when these cuts have been implemented, the "Warsaw Pact will still have a large advantage in conventional forces" in Europe. Reagan called for a strengthening of the NATO alliance. "There was nothing that can be taken for granted in what we have managed to achieve," he said, "we were able to advance thanks to our unity, confidence, strength, and determination."

Democratic representatives in the U.S. Congress also assessed the ideas contained in the Soviet leader's speech at the United Nations as constructive. Thomas Foley, leader of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, in a reply to the President's radio address on behalf of the Democratic Party, stressed that the USSR has come forward as a partner ready for talks with the new administration of G. Bush on continued efforts to reduce the overall number of strategic arms and conventional armed forces in Europe. "Speaking about the policy of changes," T. Foley went on, "the Soviet leader clearly proposed cooperation instead of confrontation." His remarks clearly demonstrate to us how far Soviet policy and our relations with the USSR have come in recent years, the Democratic representative said. T. Foley noted that Congressmen are confident that "together with the new Bush administraton we will be able to bring the new era of cooperation nearer."

Zorin on Gorbachev Visit

LD1112021788 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] It would be no overstatement to say that this week marks the beginning of political processes which will exert a substantial influence on the development of world events. Though the devastating earthquake in the Caucasus compelled President Mikhail Gorbachev to cut

short his visit to New York and return to Moscow urgently, what was accomplished during his brief stay in the United States could be considered as an outstanding political success. A major component of this is continuity. The Soviet leader used this term to sum up the outcome of his discussions with Ronald Reagan and George Bush when he was answering newsmen's questions. He expressed confidence that the next United States Administration would continue the policy pursued by Ronald Reagan of late.

Let's not be overimpressed by the smiles and handshakes exchanged between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan on Governors Island and forget the tough anti-Soviet rhetoric of the current United States President. We must not forget the quite real endeavor to translate it into trillions of dollars and aimed at upsetting military parity and ensuring American superiority over the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, Ronald Reagan's political wisdom should be done justice to. After several years of futile actions in the cold war spirit he realised the advantages of a classical scheme advocated by Otto von Bismarck, the German kaiser [as heard] of the 19th century. He was given to repeating that politics is the art of using the possible.

George Bush also resorted to the tough rhetoric of old times during his election campaign, but as an experienced politician he is evidently inclined to agree with Bismarck's formula. The results of the latest summit, even though it was informal, have refuted the predictions of those analysts who prophesied a freeze in the Soviet-American relations at the time when one United States President took over from the other. They only confirm the old maxim that in their actions political leaders are guided by the existing circumstances not by their personal liking.

Gorbachev on UN Role

LD0712071888 Moscow TASS in English 0712 GMT 7 Dec 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow December 7 TASS—Following are remarks relating to the United Nations speech made by Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev:

—PRAVDA September 17, 1987, "Reality and Guarantees of Secure World": "Objective processes are resulting in the making of our complex and diverse world ever more interrelated and interdependent.

It needs to an ever increasing extent a mechanism that would make it possible to discuss its common problems in a responsible way at representative level and provide a place for a concerted search for the balance of various and contradictory but real interests of the present-day community of states and nations.

The United Nations is called upon to be such a mechanism by definition and by its origin. We are convinced that it is capable of playing that part."

—The report at the 19th nationwide communist party conference, June 28, 1988: "...Ensuring the security of states will move further from the sphere of the correlation of military potentials into the sphere of political interaction and strict compliance with international commitments.

A comprehensive system of international security, chiefly through enhancing the role and effectiveness of the United Nations, will be taking shape."

—The speech in Krasnoyarsk, September 16, 1988: "It is important and appropriate that the United Nations is once again gaining strength and its role is growing. We are doing everything in order to maintain the prestige and enhance the role of this international organisation."

—The message to the U.N. secretary-general on the occasion of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the U.N. peace-keeping forces, October 4, 1988: "...The Soviet Union will continue to render all-round support for the efforts to strengthen the peace-making potential of the United Nations and increase its practical contribution to maintaining lasting peace and universal security."

USIA's Wick Assesses Relations

LD1012003188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; interview with Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, in New York by unidentified correspondent; the two converse in English with superimposed Russian translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Wick] Mr Gorbachev sincerely wants to continue what was begun under President Reagan and, without putting things off, to give his views to George Bush. For his part, Mr Bush has confirmed that he intends to develop the successes established by President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.

[Correspondent] In what sphere can we expect the greatest success in the development of Soviet-U.S. relations?

[Wick] The most important thing is that the sides are beginning to trust each other, and are succeeding in resolving very serious problems that have arisen in the past: human rights, regional problems, and information exchange. The definitive resolution of these problems will enable greater trust to be established and, let us hope, will speed up the disarmament process. This will release resources that are of such value in raising the standard of living and education in both countries. It is

quite obvious that everywhere now every word pronounced by Mr Gorbachev is being studied most carefully. It is being studied to determine the extent to which his proposals and intentions can be put into practice. If there really is a troop pull-back and other unilateral actions are implemented, it will go down in history.

Reagan Message to Trade Exhibit

LD0912140888 Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 9 Dec 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] New York December 9 TASS—A Soviet exhibition of export goods, the first one of this kind in the U.S., has opened in a large hall (some 4,000 square metres) of the Jacob Javits Exhibition Centre. Its motto is 'Cooperation Through Trade.' The exhibition is a practical result of a summit agreement on the development of trade and economic relations between the USSR and the U.S.

Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, spoke at the opening ceremony. He pointed out that the exhibiton was an 'Invitation to economic cooperation which shows a real desire to translate the agreement reached at summit level into a commercial language of contracts. The fact that both Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent messages of greeting to its opening ceremony shows how much significance is attached to this exhibiton.' The Soviet leader's message said:

'This is the first time that a Soviet export goods exhibition is being held on American soil. Its motto is 'cooperation through trade.' This motto envisages long-term work that is just commencing. Trade has not yet become, but it can and must become a basis for and a catalyst of the process of interchange between our peoples and states. Perestroyka significantly broadens the scope of activities for the business community of the United States in our country. It is important, however, that Soviet manufacturers and exporters could also operate on an equal footing on the American market. A steady growth of Soviet export to the United States is a necessary guarantee of the development of trade. Absent that, we shall not travel down the road that is opening in this sphere of our mutual relations as well.

I hope that the exhibition will demonstrate new possibilities for contacts between Soviet and American business circles, including in non-traditional areas and in new forms. May the climate of confidence between the Soviet Union and the United States, between the Soviet and American peoples improve not only through political dialogue and humanitarian ties but also through mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

I extend my cordial greetings to the organisers and visitors of the exhibition.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I transmit the good wishes of the Soviet people to the citizens of the United States of America.'

William Verity, U.S. Secretary of Commerce who also spoke at the ceremony called attention to a great importance of the holding of such exhibitions. He read out a short message of greetings sent by U.S. President Ronald Reagan:

'Greetings to participants and visitors at the Soviet export goods exhibition in New York City.

During the past year, I have met with President Gorbachev in Washington and in Moscow, and on both occasions we have agreed that the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic relations deserves our strong support. As a practical step toward this goal, the U.S. Government has sponsored trade exhibitions of U.S. companies in the Soviet Union in each of the last three years. I am pleased that now the Soviet Union has decided to sponsor its first commercial exhibition in the United States.

This exhibition offers Americans the opportunity to see Soviet products in this country, just as Soviet citizens have been able to see American products in their country. I believe the results will continue to an increase in two-way trade that benefits both countries.

Nancy joins me in sending best wishes for a most enjoyable exhibition. God bless you.'

Fifty Soviet organizations, including foreign trade associations, firms of ministries and institutions that were given the right to engage in foreign trade on their own, enterprises created jointly with American, West German and Italian firms, a number of cooperatives and the all-union fashion house, are taking part in the exhibition organized by the USSR Chamber of Commerce and industry together with exhibition marketing and management. 34 U.S. firms exporting their goods to the Soviet Union also displayed their products. A total of 4,000 exhibits are on display.

Americans Express Sympathy for Earthquake Victims

Bush, Shultz Sign Book

LD1112074388 Moscow TASS in English 0713 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 11 TASS—A book of condolences in view of the natural calamity in Armenia was opened in the Soviet Embassy in the United States on Saturday.

Visiting the embassy, U.S. Vice-President and President-elect George Bush and his wife Barbara made the following entry in the book: "With anguish in our hearts for all those in the Soviet Union who lost their loved ones. With respect George and Barbara Bush."

In answer to reporters' questions Bush said "there's understanding and wanting to help on the part of the people. So I don't know what rules have to be changed to expedite the help to the people. It should be done and I expect knowing President Reagan commitment it will be done. And I know of no barriers. I hope the Soviet side knows that we want to reach out people to people to make this to show the general concern of the American people for those who lost their loved ones."

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told reporters in the Soviet Embassy that a special group is working in the State Department round-the-clock to organize relief operations for earthquake victims in Armenia, and that a permanent contact is being maintained with the Soviet side to find out what necessities should be sent to the quake-hit areas.

Shultz made the following entry in the book of condolences: "With my deep sympathy for the human loss and sufferings from this tremendous earthquake and my admiration for the heroism of the Soviet people on the spot for the way they have helped their fellow human beings."

Reagan Visits Soviet Embassy

LD1212074188 Moscow TASS in English 0732 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 12 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan on Sunday paid a solemn visit to the Soviet Embassy in the United States to share the Soviet people's grief in this time of pain for them. The U.S. President signed a book of condolences. His message reads: "I speak for all our people when I say we share your sorrow. You are in our thoughts and prayers".

"What a terrible human tragedy. Our deepest sympathy", wrote Nancy Reagan.

Reagan, his wife and Colin Powell, assistant to the president for national security affairs, viewed a display of photographs featuring residents of Armenia mourning the death of their next of kin and showing the scope of destruction and the effort to deal with the consequences of the disaster. Reagan, Powell and other officials of the U.S. Administration who accompanied the President stressed that the United States was ready to give all necessary aid to earthquake victims.

"We are deeply moved by your concern over our tragedy and also by the concern of the American people", Yuriy Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, told President Reagan. He said thousands upon thousands of Americans telephoned the embassy offering their assistance. The U.S. president later told NBC Television network that the U.S. Government maintained constant contact with the Soviet side to clear what the earthquake devastated areas needed.

To this end a special team engaged in the organisation of the necessary relief works in the U.S. State Department round-the-clock. Five planes with emergency relief to victims of the disaster have already arrived in the Soviet Union. Dubinin told journalists that a direct and constantly operating communication line was set up between the embassy and the state department. All questions which arise in connection with the dispatch of everything necessary to the Soviet Union were handled promptly. This is the main line of emergency relief now. The whole of the American public responded to unprecedented scope of Armenia's tragedy. People of most different political convictions express readiness to give help within their capabilities, Dubinin said.

Dozens of organisations have mounted the drive to collect funds for earthquake victims. The Armenian Assembly of America alone has already collected over two million dollars and charted three planes to fly supplies to the Soviet Union. Other organisations, too, work in close contact with the Soviet Embassy in their relief efforts. Three Soviet large-cargo planes will fly to the United States in the next few days to transport supplies to Armenia. U.S. mass media stress that this desire to help the Soviet Union has not been witnessed ever since the time of the Second World War. It is viewed here as a real manifestation of the changed nature of relations between the two countries.

U.S. Sends Relief Supplies

LD1112070988 Moscow TASS in English 0653 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 11 TASS—A plane with specialists and relief supplies for quake victims left Washington's International Dulles Airport for Soviet Armenia on Saturday.

John Metelski, a spokesman for the U.S. Agency for International Development, said six traumatologists, eight guides with dogs specially trained to find people under the ruins of buildings, as well as various experts left by air for the Soviet Union. Among them is Dr. Robert Gale, a prominent U.S. surgeon who had given aid to the Chernobyl radiation victims in 1986. The plane is carrying medicines, blankets, clothes, radio transmitters, and other prime necessities.

Another plane has been loaded with medicines and relief supplies and is preparing to leave for Armenia from Andrews Air Base located near Washington.

The UPI agency also reported that Armand Hammer, a prominent U.S. industrialist and public figure, already left for the Soviet Union by air with a cargo of relief supplies.

Sakharov Calls for Aid

LD0912201088 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] New York December 9 TASS—Soviet Academician Andrey Sakharov during his visit to the United States met with President Ronald Reagan and other American officials.

Addressing newsmen at Boston's Logan International Airport before departure, Sakharov remarked that he was leaving America at a time when a "terrible natural calamity" struck the Soviet Union.

The academician called on international organisations to launch a campaign of aid to quake victims and on the Soviet Union to accept their assistance.

Sakharov left Boston for Paris at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand to attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights on Saturday.

Armand Hammer Flies to Armenia

LD1112170388 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] San Francisco December 11—Prominent American businessman and public figure Armand Hammer has flown to Armenia. His private plane took off from the Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday. It carries medicines, first aid kits, three "artificial kidney" apparatus and a million dollar bill to help the victims of the destructive earthquake. Half of this million comes from Hammer's personal means.

Special aid centers, working twenty-four hours a day, have been set up in California which has the largest Armenian community in the United States. Local religious organisations are also engaged in charity activities. More than a million dollars have been raised in private donations in the past two days. Medicines, bandage materials, tents, blankets, rescue equipment and food are ready for dispatch to Armenia.

U.S.-USSR Economic Symposium Ends in Moscow

PM0612112388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Dec 88 First Edition p 4

[V. Badov and A. Lopukhin report: "The Interest Is Mutual"]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. symposium on "Economic Growth in Contemporary Industrial Societies: USSR and United States," which has ended in Moscow, discussed the basic avenues of technical progress and the problems of introducing new technologies and financing economic development. This is the first such symposium, held on the initiative of the the USSR Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and it brought together eminent economists and industrial specialists from both countries.

Doctor M. Whitman, leader of the U.S. delegation and vice president of the firm "General Motors," noted that there is a great interest in the United States in the changes now occurring in the USSR, and that this is a benevolent interest, since a healthy USSR national economy is in the interest of all countries in the world. A review of economic strategy is also under way in the United States now, and this determined the U.S. side's interest in the symposium, which discussed in particular prescriptions for the future development of the United States.

"The scale of the changes occurring in your country is highly impressive," M. Whitman said. "We are interested in your approach toward economic strategy, in the problems and obstacles you encounter on the way. I think that the U.S. experience in certain spheres will also be useful for the Soviet Union. In any case, in our speeches at the symposium we tried to sum up the practice of solving the problems which you might possibly encounter in the future. This is primarily a matter of market regulation, pricing, assimilation of technological innovations, and internationalization of economic ties."

Academician K.V. Frolov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the symposium's organizing committee, emphasized that the desire for an exchange of opinions and mutually advantageous cooperation between different countries, including between the USSR and the United States, has been given an objective foundation over the last few years.

"Our world is becoming increasingly small, interlinked, and interdependent," he noted. "Many problems cannot be solved by even the greatest and most developed countries on their own. The ecological consequences of human activity recognize no national borders. This is why bilateral and multilateral cooperation becomes not only mutually advantageous but also necessary for the survival of our civilization. Joint efforts and capital investments are needed right now in a whole series of spheres."

The symposium discussed in great detail the prospects of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in the sphere of developing robotics and flexible production systems, saving raw material and energy resources, and training enterprise managers.

How are the latest scientific and technical knowledge and discoveries to be embodied in production useful for people? This question occupied a central position at the symposium which, by the way, also represented a step forward by our own science: Soviet economists met

specialists in the sphere of engineering and technology in an atmosphere of international dialogue, which was something new for both sides. As a result of this, economists managed to fill the gaps in their technical knowledge, while those dealing with new technology were given an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the methods used to evaluate the efficiency of its introduction.

Both Soviet and U.S. participants recognized the mutual benefit from holding such symposiums. The intention to have further similar meetings between USSR and U.S. scientists and specialists was reaffirmed.

***Red Tape Continues To Impede Joint Ventures**
WA18250041 SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 26 Nov 88 p 1

[Article by B. Yunanov, foreign department correspondent; for the text of Cheporov's article from SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 20 February 1988, see the 2 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 11: "Is the Situation the Same?"]

[Text] Just under 9 months have passed since SOVETSKAYA KULTURA published Edgar Cheporov's report from New York, "It Has Been 7 Years," which told about the actual breakdown of the deal, through our fault, with American company Murman Manufacturing, which is headed by Peter Marcy, now well known to our readers. His arguments: Joint production of the feed additive "Mintratex" would have enabled us to decrease severalfold expenditures for grain and meat purchases abroad, reduce considerably feed grain consumption and harvesting losses, and improve the infrastructure of livestock raising primarily through a qualitative and quantitative increase in meat production at market prices much lower than today's. The resultant annual savings of several billion (including currency) also would do no harm to our agriculture, critically in need of modernization of its infrastructure. I would add that Murman offered us products at prices 20 percent lower than to its own fellow countrymen.

The benefits are obvious. The State Agro-Industrial Committee also agreed with this. Its representatives signed a protocol of intentions with Peter Marcy back in June 1987. After this, they left the zone of visibility, as they say, for good.

The protocol of intentions expired long ago; now it is time to respond somehow both to the inquiries, telexes, and telegrams of Peter Marcy himself and to the newspaper reports raising the problem. Especially since in the 9 months since the first report by E. Cheporov was published, we have already given both Peter Marcy ("Notes of a Realist," SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, 12 April 1988) and our readers who are indignant at the inaction of high-ranking agricultural officials ("The Reader Takes the Floor," SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, 5 May 1988) a chance to speak.

"The American is worried about us having more meat and saving currency, but we continue to sit behind the bureaucratic shield and see how difficult (sometimes extremely difficult) it is to buy meat in the store and how hard it is to fill the family food allowance. Just what are our comrades from the RSFSR State Agro-Industrial Committee who are responsible for agriculture doing?" V. Nesteryuk, a reader from Kharkov, asks frankly.

Other readers' questions directed to the newspaper are in the same spirit: What are the reasons for blocking the purchase of Mintratex? Who is empowered by law to monitor fulfillment of the contract? How can an ordinary citizen assist in immediate purchase of this product? In short, unlike the departmental activeness, level of civic activeness of our subscribers is quite high.

The Western business world is now showing interest in developing trade and economic relations with the USSR, particularly in creating joint ventures. According to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, 200-300 Western companies are interested in the idea of creating joint ventures with Soviet organizations using approved Western technologies and equipment. In the U.S., well-known corporations and firms such as Occidental Petroleum, Combustion Engineering, McDonald's, Honeywell, and others were pioneers in this new form of cooperation. Now about 50 protocols of intentions of large U.S. companies and firms are being prepared for signing. In the words of Joseph Condon, vice president of Combustion Engineering, they all "see the USSR as a reliable partner, the scale and benefits of cooperation with which it is hard to overestimate." Many businessmen consider the sphere of creating joint ventures "very promising," namely in the context of the general warming of American-Soviet relations, and between East and West as a whole. "By promoting success of restructuring, in the end we are serving to achieve a high goal—improving relations between our countries," is how Peter Marcy explained the persistence with which he is "driving" the deal with the State Agroindustrial Committee.

This calls to mind the words of Reiner Lang, co-owner of the first Soviet-West German venture, heard on a recent TV broadcast "USSR-FRG: At a Turning Point": "What is hindering us most is that we still do not have the necessary support in the Soviet Union. Authorities which are obliged to resolve all the questions are dragging out the matter and putting off making decisions.... I must say with all determination that thing cannot continue this way any more." One of our readers was indeed right in his letter: "...our breath is taken away by the bureaucratic power of our mismanaged agencies!"

Quite recently, a seminar on trade and economic ties between the USSR and the U.S. was held in New York, organized by the Center of Civil Diplomacy from Rye, New York, and the Soviet Committee for the Protection of Peace specifically to help small and medium-size American companies to establish business contacts with

Soviet partners. Our orators assured the American businessmen that the "Soviet Union is purposefully creating favorable conditions for developing business contacts with foreign partners, attracting foreign capital, implementing joint projects...." (quoted from a New York TASS news report—Author). Can Peter Marcy, manager of a "medium-size American company" desiring to "establish business contacts with Soviet partners," receive this report with any different reaction other than a bitter smile? And will his example not appear as a very convincing lesson for other businessmen? Obviously, it makes sense for the leaders of the RSFSR State Agroindustrial Committee, who denied the American partner a basic courtesy in business ethics, to think about this. Judging from appearances, the situation is the same to this day.

In the article "It Has Been Seven Years," E. Cheporov noted: "Peter Marcy asked for my assistance in roughly the same manner as our readers complain to the newspaper about the ministry." In turn, the readers of SOVETSKAYA KULTURA asked the newspaper's assistance in resolving an "important agricultural matter." We have nothing left to do but again turn to the RSFSR State Agroindustrial Committee for an answer on the substance of the matter. At the same time, we must also remind certain other Soviet organizations about the need to put an end to bureaucratic red tape in foreign economic activities. Otherwise, the price of procrastination may prove to be too high....

Gostev Meets With Chase Manhattan Chairman

PM0712140188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 2 December USSR Minister of Finance B.I. Gostev received W. Butcher, chairman of the board of Chase Manhattan Bank, and had a conversation with him in which Yu.S. Moskovskiy, chairman of the board of the USSR Foreign Economic Bank, took part.

Menteshashvili Meets With U.S. Church Leader

PM0812115388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met 6 December with Neil Wilson, president of the "Seventh Day Adventist" international organization's general conference. A friendly talk was held, in which M.A. Ivolgin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Council for Religious Affairs, took part.

U.S. Troops Simulate Landing on Soviet Coast

LD1112134388 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] New York December 11 TASS—Six platoons of the Sixth Infantry Division of the U.S. Army and support troops at an aggregate strength of 3,100 are taking part in military exercises in Alaska these days. The purpose of the exercise is to practice amphibious operations in northern conditions, the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency reported from Delta Junction, Alaska.

The exercises began more than a week ago but were not reported for 'secrecy considerations'.

The base at Fort Greeley where the Sixth Division is stationed is located at a distance of 100 miles from the city of Fairbanks. AP points out that it is one hour's flight from the base to Soviet territory. A landing of troops on the "Soviet coast" with massive artillery and air support is simulated during the exercises.

U.S. Carries Out 'Yet Another' Nuclear Test

LD1112093888 Moscow TASS in English 0750 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 11 TASS—Yet another underground nuclear test with a yield of not less than 150 kilotons was carried out at the U.S. test site in Nevada on Saturday.

The UPI news agency pointed out with reference to a spokesman for the U.S. department of Energy that the test was conducted with a view to studying the effects of nuclear weapons on potential military targets.

It was this year's twelfth officially announced test, and the 687th one since the Nevada test site went into operation.

U.S. Energy Department Reports on Nuclear Leaks

LD0712172188 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] New York December 7 TASS—By TASS correspondent Maksim Kuznetsov:

Leaks of radiation and toxic chemicals from U.S. plants for the production of nuclear weapons pose a serious hazard to people's health and to the environment. This conclusion is contained in a report issued by the U.S. Department of Energy on Tuesday.

The report, in which the department for the first time acknowledges 155 specific cases of leaks at 16 military plants and laboratories, portrays a more alarming picture of the state of affairs in the field of environmental protection than was done ever before.

A leak of toxic chemicals from the subterranean storage at the notorious plant at Rocky Flats near the city of Denver is the biggest problem owing to the hazard it poses to urban sources of drinking water.

Way back in October this year a commission discovered a whole number of gross violations of nuclear production safety measures. The department had to resort to an extreme step: to shut down the operation in the main building of the enterprise.

Nuclear complexes in Savannah River, South Carolina, and Fernald, Ohio, are also on the list of polluters of the environment.

Until recently the U.S. Government kept stating that leaks from its nuclear plants posed no threat to human health because they occurred inside huge storage facilities built in remote parts of the country after the Second World War.

However, recently the administration had to admit that poisonous substances from some military factories got into the atmosphere and soil, poisoning water reservoirs which the inhabitants of nearby areas used as drinking-water sources. The Department of Energy which is in charge of the nuclear plants also admits that the threat posed by some factories to human health and the environment is much greater than was hitherto reckoned.

Each of the 16 enterprises mentioned in the report represent a 'Serious Problem'. Huge funds from the federal budget and the newest technology will be needed to solve the problems, the authors of the survey believe.

THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper points out that the Department of Energy stated when publishing the survey that these data are only tentative ones and that an evaluation of hazard to human health was computer-simulated, and was not the result of an epidemiological research.

Having described the state of affairs at the Pentagon's nuke plants, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that representatives of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)—The 1985 Nobel Peace Prize winner—announced the setting up of a commission to estimate damage done to human health as a result of the discharges of hazardous substances from U.S. nuclear weapon production plants.

The scientists want to prove that there is connection between the leak of radioactive substances and the increased number of cancer cases among the personnel of the plants and residents of nearby areas. They invited environmental protection organizations from more than 60 countries to participate in the commission's work.

U.S. Group Attacks White House on Human Rights

LD1012192288 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 10 TASS—The White House is treating with open disregard the civil rights and freedoms proclaimed in the U.S. Constitution. This conclusion was drawn by the organisation People for the American Way which studied the human rights record of the current U.S. Administration. Summing up the eight years it was in office, the organization drafted a report which cites 225 cases of crude violations of the constitutional rights of Americans on the basis of documentary evidence.

The Washington administration, the paper continues, unleashed with unprecedented vigour an onslaught on the First Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees the Americans basic civil rights. Freedom of speech was especially often violated in the United States. The report cites various cases of violations, the news agency AP writes. This includes the news black out of the U.S. invasion of Grenada and infiltration of informers into organisations which are opposed to the U.S. policy in Central America. In this way Washington tried to hide from the American and the world public facts which presented unfavourably U.S. foreign policy.

The organisation People for the American Way made the report not just to state the facts. As its authors stress, the new U.S. Adminstration of President George Bush should make every effort to stamp out the practice of violation of human rights and freedoms in the United States.

Visa Office Chief Addresses Human Rights Forum

LD0812171888 Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 8 TASS—As many as 11,000 Soviet citizens within eleven months of this year have been granted an opportunity to leave for permanent residence for the USA. This is more than twice as many as were enabled to leave for the USA last year, said Admir Luzinovich, deputy chief of the Visa Office of the USSR Ministry of Interior. He addressed today the participants in the Soviet-American Forum for Life With Human Rights, underway in Moscow.

Since the beginning of the year altogether some 80 thousand people were permitted to leave abroad—for the USA, FRG, Israel and other countries—for family reunion, Luzinovich reported. "The Soviet Union strictly adheres to the Helsinki Accords on problems of emigration," he said.

The spokesman for the Visa Office said that a resolution which considerably simplified the procedure for citizens' exit on private business has been in operation since January 1, 1987. Restrictions on short-term trips abroad at the invitation of relatives and acquaintances, have

specifically been removed. Many formalities connected with such trips have been discarded and the period of time taken by the issuing of visas was sharply reduced. There is only a small number of refusals of permissions for exit abroad for family reunion (they made up 1.4 percent of the total number of applications this year). The main reason for the denial of visas is the applicants' knowledge of state secrets. The legislation aimed at the further democratisation of international contacts on a personal basis is being worked out now.

Answering questions from participants in the forum, Admir Luzinovich said that many Soviet citizens permitted to leave for the USA were denied entry visas by the U.S. authorities because of a limited quota they imposed. Thousands of people have already been affected by this restrictive policy, the visa office spokesman said.

Democrat Majority Leader Mitchell Portrayed

PM0512110988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Dec 88 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "New Leader for the Democrats"]

[Text] Washington, 1 Dec—Having retained their control of the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress, the Democrats have elected a new leader to replace R. Byrd, who held this post for 12 years. As a result of an in camera vote, this post has been filled by Senator George Mitchell from Maine, who considerably outstripped his rivals Senators B. Johnston (Louisiana) and D. Inouye (Hawaii).

The new leader of the Democrat majority is 55 years old and has been a senator for 8 years. He is considered an outstanding orator and often speaks on behalf of the party on the most topical issues. The senator drew universal attention to himself during the investigation on Capitol Hill of the Iran-Contra swindle. As a member of the investigative commission Mitchell was notable for his objectivity and principledness, for which he won high assessments from his colleagues and the public.

At the same time his election came as a surprise to many people. ABC TV pointed out that the senators preferred the "most liberal" of the three contenders. In this connection the assumption is being voiced that it will probably be easier for the Republican minority to cause division in the Democrats' ranks by winning over the conservative legislators.

Be that as it may, as leader of the Democratic majority Mitchell will enjoy great political influence, having received the power to direct the work of the Senate. It is on him and House of Representatives Speaker J. Wright, who have become the effective leaders of the Democratic Party, that the fate of the programs and initiatives on the whole range of domestic and foreign policy questions put forward by the new Bush administration will depend.

Leaders Greet Joint Philadelphia Youth Forum

PM0712141988 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Dec 88 p 3

[TASS report under the general heading "To the Soviet-American Youth Forum"]

[Text] How can we achieve a situation in which the world is no longer threatened with nuclear wars and ecological catastrophies and there is no room in the world for distrust, ethnic strife, or religious conflicts? Representatives of young people from the USSR and the United States have decided to try and find answers to these questions. They are gathered in the U.S. city of Philadelphia, where a forum of Soviet and American youth has opened.

The forum participants listened with great attention to the text of a greetings message sent by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. U.S. President R. Reagan has also sent greetings to the forum participants.

The holding of this kind of forum by the youth of our countries is a translation into practice of the new political thinking, Soviet delegation head V. Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, said. It will contribute to the establishment of mutual understanding and strengthened trust between our peoples. It is no accident that this forum is taking place on the eve of the upcoming meeting next week between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan and U.S. President-elect G. Bush. We hope that our work here, in Philadelphia, will contribute to the creation of a constructive atmosphere on the eve of the summit in New York.

The organizers of this meeting between young people from the two countries are the USSR Committee of Youth Organizations and the U.S. center of international leaders.

China

Bovin Discusses Improving Soviet-PRC Relations

LD1112211188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "International Panorama" program hosted by Aleksandr Bovin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Both here and in China transformations of more or less the same type are underway: We are probably acting more radically in politics, and they are more radical than we are in economics, and this provides the possibility and a good basis for exchanging experiences.

The political conditions for such an exchange are getting better and better. We are used to rejoicing loudly at the normalization and improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations, but somehow the normalization and improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations seem less striking. Although I am convinced that in the long term, looking from the point of view of the future, the smoothing of relations between Moscow and Beijing is of no less, and perhaps of even greater importance, than contacts on the Moscow-Washington line.

Until recently, positive moves in Soviet-Chinese relations were held back by three large obstacles—this is how Beijing described the presence of our troops in Afghanistan; our support for Vietnam, whose troops are in Cambodia; and also the significant concentration of our troops on the Chinese border, including our troops in Mongolia. But the course of events and changes in policy have started to wash away these obstacles, and this has opened up the path to expanding the sphere of agreements, to the full normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. The visit to Moscow by the Chinese minister of foreign affairs [words indistinct] is the main tendency, and there can be no doubt that the meeting planned for the first half of next year between Comrades Gorbachev and Deng Xiaoping will start a qualitatively new stage in relations between the great socialist states, the Soviet Union and China. I do not think we will return to the relationship of allies of the 1950's, say: There are and will remain some disagreements, perhaps small, perhaps a bit greater, between us. But however that may be, the general agreement between Moscow and Beijing will noticeably change the world political climate for the benefit of peace, of course, for the benefit of peaceful coexistence and detente.

Commentary Views Soviet-Chinese Cooperation

OW1012044688 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Filippov commentary; from "The World Today" program]

[Text] Soviet-Chinese economic cooperation was one topic discussed during Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's visit to Moscow. Prior to his departure from Moscow, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said at a news conference that there ought to be a great potential for Soviet-Chinese economic cooperation. In this connection, station commentator Filippov writes:

More often than not we can accurately assess the development of relations between countries according to their economic ties. If we assess the development of Soviet-Chinese relations from this angle, we can clearly see that there is some—or, to put it more accurately, significant—progress in this regard. The two countries' trade in 1981 was 260 million rubles. In 1987, the trade volume increased nearly ninefold, reaching $2.5 billion. [currency as heard] In my view, the growth in trade volume clearly indicates the development of Soviet-Chinese economic and political cooperation.

Experiences in the past few years prove that this cooperation has been economically beneficial to the two countries. The Soviet Union has been selling to China metals, machinery, and chemical goods in exchange for China's light industrial goods, foodstuffs, and fuel. In this way the two countries have satisfied their respective needs through supplying each other's needs.

Border trade, which has also been growing fast, is undergoing the transition to become a new form of economic tie, such as the establishment of joint ventures and exchanging workers and technicians.

During the Third Soviet-Chinese Conference on Economic, Trade, and Scientific-Technological Cooperation last summer, representatives of the two countries signed an agreement governing the establishment of joint ventures and direct ties between various Soviet republics and oblasts and Chinese provinces and autonomous regions. This shows that noticeable progress has been made in the development of economic relations between the two countries.

The two countries, however, have great potential for further developing their contacts in this area. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze pointed out that the Soviet Union and China are two large neighboring countries which have potentially enormous material resources and manpower and which are capable of expanding bilateral ties several times over.

China fully concurs with this observation. That is why the two countries are working actively in exploring new and more effective forms of cooperation. For example, the two countries have been discussing the proposal of inviting a third country to share in the cooperation. In this regard, the most significant proposal is the one concerning cooperation among the Soviet Union, China, and Japan in developing the natural wealth in the far eastern part of the Soviet Union.

Soviets Attend Shanghai Aerospace Exhibition

PM1212104188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[Special correspondent B. Barakhta dispatch: "Horizons of Cooperation"]

[Text] Shanghai, 10 Dec—The fourth international aerospace exhibition ended here today. The Soviet Union had been represented at it for the first time.

The spacious halls of the Shanghai Exhibition Center were crowded with people over the last few days, notably around the USSR stands, which gave a picture of our aircraft industry's present and future.

The exhibits were shipped to Shanghai by a mighty "Ruslan" An-124. The exhibits included not only modern civil airliners and helicopters, a photographic exhibition, and aircraft equipment, but the "linchpin" of the exhibition—the Ka-32 helicopter.

China today, judging by its exhibition, has made significant strides in developing its aircraft industry. There are many areas in this sphere where fruitful mutually advantageous cooperation is possible. Tu-154M aircraft are exported to China from the USSR, but the Ka-32 helicopter, our Chinese interlocutors noted, could also be used on the country's extensive civil aviation network and in the national economy. Navigational systems, on-board computers, autopilots, and air-pressure indicators—these instruments and devices could play a part in the burgeoning PRC aircraft industry. The Soviet stand in Shanghai exhibited the K-36DM ejector seat, which is unmatched in the world. Chinese specialists advocated its joint production.

In short, there were many proposals for cooperation from both the Soviet and Chinese sides. Many of them were about organizing consumer goods production at aircraft industry enterprises.

Moscow Carries TV Guide for Chinese Viewers

OW1012203288 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Listeners, let us now introduce next week's Soviet television programs to be broadcast to the eastern USSR over the Orbita-3 satellite system. Television viewers in China who have special antennae will also be able to receive these programs. We believe that these programs will be of great help to viewers who are learning the Russian language.

At 2325 Beijing time [1525 GMT] on 12 December, Monday, you can watch the "Meet Aytmatov" program. This outstanding Soviet author is famous at home and abroad. His works have been translated into Chinese. In this program, Aytmatov will present his views on international relations, history, culture, languages, ecology, religion, and sports. We believe that you will learn something from this program.

At 2300 Beijing time [1500 GMT] on 14 December, Wednesday, Soviet television will broadcast a film on Academician Ligachev, a Soviet scholar. The experience of Academician Ligachev is part of Soviet history. In recent years, his articles have frequently appeared in Soviet newspapers and periodicals. He also frequently takes part in Soviet television programs. A noted linguist, he is a principal activist of the Soviet Cultural Foundation. His remarks in the film will prompt us to think more deeply about man's will, courage, sense of glory, and dedication to his cause. [passage omitted]

Northeast Asia

Japan's Takeshita Welcomes Gorbachev UN Speech

LD1212093188 Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo December 12 TASS—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, responding to questions in parliament today, described the speech of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in the United Nations as "an all-embracing speech which generalized the guidelines of the Soviet Union's policy".

The head of the Japanese Government drew attention to "a constructive tenor of this speech which underscores the need for a political dialogue". According to Takeshita, "the USSR's decision to cut unilaterally the strength of its armed forces should be basically welcomed".

Wider Technical Cooperation Planned With Japan

PM0912104588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A protocol signed 7 December at the fifth session of the Soviet-Japanese Intergovernmental Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which took place in Tokyo 5-7 December, foresees the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the USSR and Japan in the sphere of science and technology, and extending it to new spheres.

Mongolian Delegation Visits To Strengthen Ties

'Mutually Committed' Conversation

PM0812112188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Ties Between USSR and MPR Are Getting Stronger"]

[Text] How to increase the consolidation and development of Soviet-Mongolian cooperation in diverse spheres under the conditions of socialist renewal—this was the subject of a businesslike and mutually committed conversation on 6 December, at a meeting between the chairmen of the chambers and members of the chambers' standing commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and a delegation from the Mongolian People's Great Hural led by T. Namsray, member of the Politburo, secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, and deputy chairman of the People's Great Hural Presidium.

The guests were told about the work launched in our country to implement the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference, and practical steps to deepen restructuring. The delegation members dwelt in detail on the problems which the Mongolian Communists and working people are actively working to resolve as they implement the MPRP's course, which is aimed at transforming all spheres of society's life.

The sides stressed their mutual desire, together with all interested countries and public forces in the Asian-Pacific Region, to do everything necessary to strengthen the cause of peace, curb the arms race, and establish constructive international cooperation.

Namsray Visits Turkmenistan

LD1012123388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] A Great People's Hural delegation from Mongolia headed by Namsray, member of the Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party, and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural, was in Turkmenistan for 4 days. The guests acquainted themselves with the activity of the soviets of peoples deputies under conditions of restructuring. In their visits to industrial and agricultural enterprises, they were interested in the conditions and the organization of labor, and the development of the social and domestic sphere. At the Turkmenistan Central Committee and in the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, meetings with chiefs of republican party organizations and deputies of the supreme organ of power took place.

Silayev, Deputy Premier Confer

PM1212085988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has met with Ch. Suren, deputy chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers. During their talks great attention was paid to the tasks of further developing Soviet-Mongolian cooperation in machine building, arising from the concept for the development of foreign economic ties between the USSR and Mongolia for the period through 2005, as well as the special comprehensive program for multilateral cooperation between the European CEMA members and Mongolia adopted at the 44th CEMA session meeting and the decisions of the CEMA Committee for Cooperation in Machine Building. Measures have been outlined to increase the effectiveness of this cooperation by making active use of its new forms.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV Troop Withdrawal From Cambodia Praised

BK1212043888 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1100 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Nikolay commentary]

[Text] The PRK Ministry of National Defense has issued a communique which says that between 15 and 21 December six divisions of Vietnamese troops totaling 18,000 men will be repatriated. Our commentator, Comrade Nikolay, has this to say:

This is the last batch of the 50,000 Vietnamese Army volunteers who, in accordance with the decision of the SRV and PRK Governments, must be withdrawn before the end of this year within the framework of the partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

Since January of this year, 32,000 Vietnamese combatants have been repatriated. Therefore, after 21 December, only 50 percent of the Vietnamese Army units will remain in Cambodia. It should be noted that these remaining Vietnamese units have been placed under the control of the KPRAF [Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Armed Forces] command.

This massive reduction of Vietnamese Army units is the reflection of many things. For instance:

1. It displays the sincere intention of the Vietnamese and Cambodian leaders to (?strictly) comply with the decision on the withdrawal of all Vietnamese volunteer combatants by 1990.

2. It displays the two countries' peace-loving policies and the constructive stance taken by the two countries regarding the settlement of the Cambodian problem.

3. The reduction of the number of Vietnamese combatants, and of Vietnamese advisers in the Cambodian ministries and departments, is due to the consolidation of the Cambodian Government's stance in the domestic, economic, and military fields. This also clearly attests to Vietnam's respect for the sovereignty and independence of the PRK.

The withdrawal of 50 percent of the Vietnamese combatants from Cambodia will certainly create favorable conditions for expanding the dialogue of all Cambodian factions in response to everyone's efforts to quickly settle the Cambodian problem.

It should be noted that during the past months, the international public has actively sought ways to settle conflicts in this region. In particular, the meeting in Bogor of the four Cambodian parties with representatives of the three Indochinese states and ASEAN representatives has created the groundwork for the political settlement of this problem—that is, the withdrawal of

the Vietnamese Army volunteers from the PRK and the [words indistinct] to guarantee that the Pol Pot clique will be prevented from returning to power in Cambodia.

It is generally known that during the recent meeting in Moscow, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and the Soviet side paid particular attention to issues relating to the settlement of the situation in and around Cambodia. The two sides noted that there were favorable conditions for settling the conflict. The Soviet Union and the PRC had once again reiterated their willingness to help settle the external aspect of the Cambodian conflict, holding that the internal aspect will be settled through the direct meeting of all Cambodian factions.

During his meeting with Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, the Chinese foreign minister noted that the settlement of the Cambodian problem will respond to the interests of China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the Cambodian people themselves, and that this settlement will help strengthen peace and stability in the region. The Soviet leader agreed with this remark made by the Chinese side. Comrade Gorbachev stressed that the Sino-Vietnamese talks may also play a significant role.

(?Earlier), the PRC had declared its readiness to hold talks with the SRV if the latter withdrew a part of its troops from Cambodia.

In our opinion, the completion of the repatriation of 50 percent of the Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia within the near future will create [words indistinct] conditions for this meeting.

TASS Cites Phnom Penh Speech by Hun Sen

LD0912141688 Moscow TASS in English 1359 GMT 8 Dec 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh December 9 TASS—'The Kampuchean people have every reason to be proud of their achievements since the January 1979 revolution,' Hun Sen, a Politburo member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has said.

Hun Sen told a large meeting at the administrative centre of Kampong Thom Province that those successes were especially notable as they were achieved despite the unceasing subversion of the Khmer Rouge, which aimed at thwarting the nation's rebirth.

'My recent talks in Paris with opposition leaders Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann were another step towards peace in Kampuchea, Hun Sen went on to say, adding that the meeting was an example of Kampuchea's Policy of national reconciliation.

Hun Sen was critical of Sihanouk's and Son Sann's attempts to support Pol Pot's group which is universally condemned.'

To achieve a political settlement of the Kampuchean conflict it is necessary to remove the Khmer Rouge as a military force from the settlement process and drop demands that the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea be dissolved, Hun Sen noted.

Mekong Bridge 'Symbolic' of New Lao-Thai Links

PM0712172188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[Petr Tsvetov "Viewpoint": "Building Bridges of Good-neighborliness"]

[Text] Good news has come from the banks of the Mekong. An important, significant turning point has been reached in relations between Laos and Thailand.

In order to properly appreciate the significance of this, you have to remember that in the last few years the 1,650 km Laos-Thailand border has unfortunately resounded more than once to the thunder of battle. In the summer of 1984 the world public was concerned by Thai troops' occupation of three population centers in the Lao province of Sayaboury. The beginning of this year was clouded by a further act of provocation: The Bangkok authorities sent in jets, heavy artillery, and commando detachments to seize a small (approximately 70 square km) section of Lao territory. The bloody fighting cost hundreds of lives, and the only reason for the attack was that some people in Thailand did not recognize the border demarcation line recorded on maps drawn at the beginning of the century by French cartographers and in the sixties by U.S. cartographers, a line which is recognized by most countries in the world.

And then, a few days ago, Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan paid an official visit to Laos. A joint statement was adopted on the basis of the results of his talks with Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers. Important accords were also reached. They concern specific issues of economic cooperation between the two countries and envisage creating a mechanism for making joint decisions at the government level and forming Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao friendship societies. The sides also announced their decision to establish a joint Lao-Thai commission to find ways to settle border problems so that the border between the two countries becomes a border of peace and friendship.

It is worth pointing out that the Lao Government has always been in favor of peaceful, mutually advantageous relations with its neighbor Thailand. From the moment the fighting on the border began, the Lao side repeatedly proposed resolving the dispute through negotiations. As the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee organ PASASON wrote at the time: "We must refrain from violence in resolving our problems."

And it is gratifying to note that Vientiane's tireless peacemaking activity has gradually begun to bear fruit. A cease-fire was reached in February. In October military delegations from the two countries agreed that Laos and Thailand would not use military force to solve the problems that arise. And now new, substantial progress has been made in relations between the two states, which attests to their considerable improvement. It looks as though the stronger trends of realism in Thai policy, particularly since the formation of a new government there last summer, have also contributed to this.

The normalization of Lao-Thai relations is a positive event for the entire Asia-Pacific region. It reflects a common desire for peace and a wish to resolve disputes through negotiations. I think that the example set by Laos and Thailand is extremely useful to Asia, where border problems complicate relations between many neighboring peoples.

During the Thai premier's visit to Laos, the decision was made to jointly build a bridge over the Mekong River, which divides the two countries. This is deeply symbolic. Building bridges of friendship and good-neighborliness is in the spirit of our time.

Near East & South Asia

Israeli Doctors, Rescue Group Depart for Armenia

LD1112231088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] An Israeli transport aircraft today departed for Yerevan. On board is a group of doctors and a team with rescue dogs. The group comprises 45 people who are equipped with everything necessary for carrying out rescue work and providing medical assistance.

Israeli Party Official on PNC Session, Elections

LD0912000688 Moscow TASS in English 2332 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—"The Israeli ruling circles are showing their inability to use a moderate stand assumed by the Palestine Liberation Organization at the recent Algiers session of the Palestine National Council. Instead of it they behave as though nothing special has happened", Yosi Sarid, deputy of Knesset from the Ratz Party, has said assessing the reaction of the Israeli Government to the session of the Palestine National Council. He gave an interview by telephone to correspondents of the Soviet weekly SOBESEDNIK whose latest issue was brought out on Thursday [8 December].

Now, Sarid continued, Israel should take the same steps as Palestinians. Talks should be based on a mutual recognition of the right of each nation to self-determination. This is what Israeli left-wing forces have been speaking about for about 20 years. "Our main hope and main concern is to prevent another war in the Middle East", Sarid said.

Commenting on the results of the recent elections in Israel, he pointed out that electors had seen no special difference between Likud and the Israel Labour Party. None of them came up with an alternative to its opponent's program concerning the most important question: prospects of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. In this situation religious parties enhanced their political influence. It is obvious, Sarid pointed out, that views of religious fanatics are absolutely alien to many Israelis, and their intention to impose upon everyone a definite mode of life arouses indignation.

Avner Avraham, deputy editor of the independent journal KOTERET RASHIT, also expressed concern over the intensification of political influence of religious parties. "Leaders of those parties, taking advantage of the situation, insist on a number of changes in the law 'on return'. They want it to be recorded there that only those converted into Judaism in accordance with most rigorous religious rules by an orthodox rabbi and no one else can be regarded as Jews. It is clear already that such amendments will evoke discontent in most of the U.S. Jewish communities, because conservative or reformist trends predominate there", he said.

"Prospects of the adoption of those amendments frightens many Israeli citizens, because non-believers make up 75 per cent of the country's population. A paradoxical situation can take place: Religious circles that have only 18 out of 120 seats in parliament can force to adopt a law depriving part of Jews of their nationality, " Avraham added.

Najibullah Interviewed on Gorbachev UN Speech

PM0912183988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Everyone Will Benefit If There Is Peace"]

[Text]—The Republic of Afghanistan fully supports the new approaches of the Soviet Union to solving the burning current problems, President Najibullah of Afghanistan said. The UN speech of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, demonstrated that the USSR is really striving to establish lasting and just peace in the land, Najibullah said in an interview with the BAKHTAR news agency.

Commenting on the Soviet leader's statements on the Afghan problem, the president said that M.S. Gorbachev had pointed out the need for observing the Geneva

accords. We agree that in this case a process of political settlement of the Afghanistan-related situation would be completed by the end of 1988. Soviet initiatives develop and amend in many respects the point of view of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah continued. Specifically, immediately following the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, we urged the announcement of a cease-fire in order to create conditions for the beginning of talks. The Afghan Armed Forces observed a cease-fire until they were attacked by armed opposition forces.

Touching upon a proposal to stop arms deliveries to all warring parties, the president said: We are ready to accept this proposal. I would like to point out that our country has been turned into a powder keg filled to capacity, and all the playing with fire near it should be stopped. We also support another novel element, namely, the use of UN forces for preventing clashes between the warring parties. The experience of the past shows that the UN security forces are an effective means of ensuring tranquillity in hotbeds of tension. We suggest that detachments of volunteers from varius states join the UN troops for the purpose of achieving a peaceful settlement of the situation. A cease-fire and international control over its observance will create, in our opinion, conditions for a dialogue and talks, for the creation of a coalition government on a broader basis, the convocation of a Loya Jirgah [grand assembly], the holding of elections and, on the whole, conditions for ensuring a durable peace in the country. If opposition leaders do not agree to the sending of UN troops to Afghanistan, they will show that they are not interested in establishing peace and the termination of bloodshed. As for the Afghan Government, we are ready to create necessary conditions for the realization of all those proposals, incuding the arrival of UN troops. We believe as well that the convocation of an international conference on Afghanistan will create conditions for the neutrality and demilitarization of the country. We support the idea of creating an international peace corps for the rendering of assistance to the Afghan people, Najibullah pointed out.

The Afghan leader reiterated Afghanistan's support for meetings between Yu.M. Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, and a delegation of the Afghan opposition forces (Alliance of the Seven) held recently in Al-Ta'if. The president pointed out that they had been held with the consent of the Afghan leadership, which had taken part in their preparation. There are two ways to settle conflicts, Najibullah continued: military and political. It is generally known that the Republic of Afghanistan advocates the second way—which it has demonstrated with repeated proposals to start negotiations with the opposition. However, the opposite side has preferred war, considering the political way "a betrayal of the jihad" ("holy war"). Therefore, it is now amazing that the opposition is calling the meetings in Saudi Arabia their "victory."

The talks have shown the whole world that the opposition camp lacks a unified viewpoint on the problems of a settlement, the president continued. The daily internecine clashes among detachments of various parties on Afghan territory also attest to acute disagreements within the opposition.

As for us, we have always favored and continue to favor peace, Najibullah emphasized. If the opposition rejects a call for peace, it must bear full responsibility for the consequences of this step. State power has at its disposal strong Armed Forces equipped with modern combat equipment, and they will always be able to deal a fitting rebuff to the enemies of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

Proceeding from the aforesaid, the president pointed out, we consider the meetings in Al-Ta'if to be a victory for the policy of national reconciliation, because the opposition was forced to turn toward a political settlement. Those talks were the result of joint efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR aimed at ensuring peace in Afghanistan. The important contribution of certain UN states and individuals to the preparations for the meetings must also be noted.

In our opinion, Najibullah said, there is no question at all of winners or losers on the path to a political settlement. If peace is ensured, everyone will benefit except for the most zealous advocates of resolving the problem by military means.

TASS Analyst Views Proposals on Afghanistan

LD0912200988 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—By TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

One is compelled to note with regret that bloodshed is still continuing on Afghanistan's long-suffering land. The Geneva agreements, which opened up prospects for a peace political settlement, are not being observed by Washington and Islamabad. And the fratricidal conflict is therefore persisting.

In a bid to promote an early end to the bloodshed, the Soviet Union has put forward new proposals at the Unted Nations. It proposed the date of January 1, 1989 for a ceasefire and an end to all offensive operations and bombardment everywhere, for an end to arms deliveries to all warring sides. It proposed that a U.N. peacekeeping force be sent to Kabul and other strategic centres of the country. That would create conditions for an inter-Afghan dialogue.

Kabul has expressed readiness to accept the new proposals. It backed up the proposal that a U.N. force be sent to Afghanistan and proposed that the U.N. forces should be supplemented with units of volunteers from different states, and expressed readiness to create the necessary

conditions for the stay of these military units in the country. Underlined once again was the importance of an early putting into life of the idea of holding an international conference under U.N. auspices on neutrality and demiliarisation of Afghanistan.

And what about Washington and Islamabad? They saw "Moscow's crafty designs" even in these absolutely realistic proposals. Reflecting the stand of some American circles, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said that on having combat actions ended, Kabul's "pro-Soviet government" would retain control over major cities and aerodromes and in this way the Russians' strategic advance to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean would actually be consolidated. Well, these are the "ill-intentioned designs" that Moscow is after in proposing an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan! Islamabad echoes Washington. Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations Sardar Khan Nawaz was in a hurry to delcare that Soviet proposals were "unrealistic".

The Afghan people is tired of the long bloodshed. Even among most zealous opponents of the Kabul regime one hears sober voices inclined to think of a possibility of convening an international peace conference on Afghanistan with participation of the leading Islamic countries. But there are others, however. Using unlimited support from Washington and Islamabad, they turn down, as before, the way of negotiations and believe that war is the only way for solving the Afghan conflict.

Common sense should take the upper hand. It is high time to stop the bloodshed. This is exactly the aim of the new Soviet proposals.

Kornilov Rebuts Kissinger Remarks on Afghanistan
LD0912235288 Moscow TASS in English 2217 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

Times are changing, propaganda stereotypes that had been created in the past by enemies of detente are destroyed. Who would recall now the postulate launched in the past by the West that the USSR is striving to get the way to warm seas via Afghanistan? This allegation has long been disproved by life itself, by the Soviet Union's principled consistent course at a just political settlement of the Afghan problem on the basis of the Geneva accords.

But now we are faced with the fact that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in an interview to the CBS Television network, was trying to convince the audience that the Soviet Union's new proposals on Afghanistan, the proposals made from the United Nations rostrum and met with a broad positive response in the world, are aimed at consolidating the Russians' strategic advance to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. Mr Kissinger does not produce any proof of this view, and this is not accidental.

Where can he see the "danger to the West"? Is it the proposal for total ceasefire from January 1 and an end to all offensive operations and bombardment on long-suffering Afghan land eager for peace? Or is it the proposal to put an end from the same day to the supply of arms to all the warring parties? Or maybe he saw the danger to the West in the view that for the period of the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan envisaged in the resolution of the General Assembly it would be expedient to send United Nations peacekeeping forces to Kabul and other strategic centres of Afghanistan? It is obvious to any reasonable person that all these proposals, consonant with the Geneva accords, are aimed at an early end to the bloodletting, at the settlement of the conflict. Meanwhile Mr. Kissinger, not exerting himself to provide a semblance of proofs, arrives somehow at a surprising conclusion that all this is Moscow's perfidious manoeuvre. Unfathomable logic, indeed.

But then, is there any reason to look for logic in the statement by the former secretary of state? He was apparently motivated not at all by logic but by the striving to adjust old propaganda cliches to new realities. This is hardly an honorable occupation. Moreover, it is quite pointless...

Pakistani Jets Down Afghan Airliner, 25 Killed
LD1112173888 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 11 TASS—Twenty five passengers, including a woman and three children, were killed on Saturday [10 December] when a Pakistani warplane attacked an An-32 passenger plane of Afghanistan. The Pakistani plane violated the air space of the Republic of Afghanistan and attacked a civilian plane over Khowst, the BAKHTAR news agency reports.

In the past 24 hours units of the Afghan Army staged a number of successful operations against armed irreconcilable opposition groups. According to BAKHTAR, 52 extremists were killed and 21 wounded in Nangarhar Province. A large amount of weapons and several arms caches were captured. During the fighting with government troops in the Zarmal District, Paktia Province, and the populated locality of Kuh-e Safi Parvan Province, the irreconcilable lost dozens of men in killed and wounded. A large amount of various armaments were captured by government troops.

Thirteen extremists were killed and many wounded in clashes near the city of Talukan, administrative centre of Takhar Province, and the Pashtun Kowt District, Faryab Province.

Extremists supported by Pakistani malishas (armed volunteers) continue to exert efforts aimed at capturing big populated localities situated close to the Afghan-Pakistani border. Specifically, they are trying to capture Khowst where fierce fighting is going on. According to reports reaching here, the Pakistani Government allocated 23.5 million rupees for financing rebel actions in Nangarhar. Some 1,500 malishas are taking part in combat operations against the Afghan Armed Forces.

24 Killed in 8 Dec Air Raid on Qandahar

LD1112132488 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 11 TASS—The northern regions of the city of Qandahar were subjected to an air raid late on December 8, BAKHTAR news agency reported. As a result of the bombing raid 24 people were killed and dozens wounded. Ten houses were completely destroyed and many others damaged. The planes also delivered a strike on one of the units of the Qandahar Army Corps leaving nine troops wounded.

A provisional investigation into the circumstances of the incident showed that unidentified low-flying aircraft approached the city from east. The posts of the Afghan Armed Forces machine-gunned them. BAKHTAR reports that the investigation continues.

In connection with the incident in Qandahar, a state commission, led by Afghan Vice President Muhammad Rafi' was set up. At its first meeting the commission took a decision to render assistance to the victims.

Car Bomb Explodes in Kabul, Damage Reported

LD1012162688 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 10 TASS—A powerful explosion device, planted in a car, was detonated today by terrorists from Afghan counterrevolutionary organisations who penetrated into Kabul. As a result of the explosion nearby buildings were damaged, including apartment blocks in the capital's first housing development. Splinters from window glass injured dozens of people.

BAKHTAR news agency distributed a communique of the military command dealing with the operations of the Afghan Army to eliminate extremist strongholds in Nangarhar Province. Government troops liquidated six depots with arms and hardware, a radio station and an antiaircraft gun in Rudat District and the suburbs of Jalalabad. Several mortars and rocket launchers were captured.

Operations to clean the territory from the opposition groups were held in Qandahar, Paktia and Parvan. The extremists sustained heavy losses.

Clashes between rebel groups were reported in Zabol, Parvan, Nangarhar and Konduz Provinces.

Arab 'Military Adviser' Captured in Afghanistan

LD0912201488 Moscow TASS in English 1207 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 9 TASS—An Arab military adviser, attached to an armed group of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan," was captured in the northern Afghan Province of Faryab. It has been learnt that the group attacked on December 4th positions held by a detachment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs forces in the area of Hoja-Sabzpush [name as received]. They resorted to the use of heavy weapons manned by seven citizens of an Arab state. A counterattack of Afghan troops put the rebels to flight. They left behind many killed and wounded, including the foreign adviser. The extremists made an abortive attempt to rescue him. After receiving medical aid, the prisoner was dispatched to Kabul.

Fierce fighting continued during the past 24 hours in Nangarhar Province, where government troops are beating off rebel offensive on Jalalabad. BAKHTAR reports that during the past 24 hours the extremists lost scores of men killed and wounded, including two foreign instructors. Large quantities of weaponry, including heavy guns, were destroyed or captured. Combat operations were conducted also in Paktia and Herat Province, in Shakar Dareh and Paghman Districts (Kabul Province).

More than 30 rebels were killed during internecine clashes among different extremist gangs in Kabul and Paktia Provinces.

This Thursday [8 December] agents of the Afghan security organs seized a big load of explosives and handgrenades hidden in a car heading for Kabul. The deadly cargo belonged to terrorists from the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan".

The 143rd Good Services Mission, contains new data on continuing shipments of modern arms from Pakistan to rebel groups in Afghanistan.

Former Afghan Envoy Receives Friendship Award

LD0212150388 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has conferred an Order of People's Friendship upon Muhammadullah Safi, a former ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in the Soviet Union, for his vigorous activities in developing and strengthening friendly relations and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan, the decree says.

Avgust Voss Receives Iranian Parliamentarians

LD0712114888 Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 7 TASS—Avgust Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament), met today with a group of Iranian parliamentarians here to attend the 11th session of the Standing Soviet-Iranian Commission for Economic Cooperation.

The parties exchanged views on issues of Soviet-Iranian relations, including the development of parliamentary ties.

The Iranian ambassador to the USSR, Naser Heyrani-Nobari, took part in the discussion.

'Fruitful' Talks Noted

LD1012145488 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Nicosia December 10 TASS—Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance said his recent talks with Soviet officials in Moscow during the 11th session of the Iranian-Soviet Standing Commission for Economic Cooperation were fruitful and held in a 'friendly atmosphere.'

Mohammad Javad Iravani told the Islamic Republic News Agency that the talks opened the way toward a further development of economic relations between the two countries.

He descibed an agreement on resuming Iranian natural gas supplies to the Soviet Union, reached in Moscow, as an important achievement.

Iravani said the two sides signed also another agreement for cooperation, on a parity basis, in building and operating two hydropower plants on the border River Araks.

'Our economic cooperation with the Soviet Union rests on the principles of mutual respect, goodneighbourliness and peaceful coexistence,' the minister said.

'Arafat Thanks Ryzhkov for Solidarity Greetings

PM0912170788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Message Sent"]

[Text] Y. 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has sent N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, a message expressing gratitude for the USSR Council of Ministers' greetings on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people—29 November.

The message points out that the important, visible changes which have occurred in the international situation have also been reflected in serious work on settling regional conflicts by peaceful means.

On his own behalf and on behalf of the Arab people of Palestine, Y. 'Arafat expressed profound appreciation to the Soviet leadership, the CPSU, and the government and peoples of the friendly Soviet Union for their immutable support for the Palestinian people's just struggle. "This position," Y. 'Arafat emphasized, "was embodied in the USSR's support for the Palestine National Council's decisions and in its acknowledgment of the proclamation [v priznanii provozglasheniya] of the Palestinian state, as well as in efforts aimed at accelerating preparatory work for convening an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council and all the parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole legitimitate representative—on an equal footing with the other sides.

"Our people will not forget this principled position. They are convinced that the friendly Soviet Union will continue as their mainstay in the realization of this task, in their difficult and dogged struggle for the reinstatement and implementation of their inalienable rights."

East Europe

Miodowicz, Walesa Meet in Polish TV Debate

PM0812150188 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Dec 88 p 3

[Own correspondent V. Shutkevich dispatch: "Democracy Without Television Interference"]

[Text] Warsaw—...Two people are seated before the camera. By mutual agreement there must be no one else in the television studio. The role of the presenter amounts just to introducing the interlocutors to the viewers before the start of the debate.

This was how the recent meeting between Alfred Miodowicz, chairman of the All-Polish Trade Union Accord [OPZZ], and Lech Walesa, leader of the former "Solidarity" trade union association, appeared on the television screens. A. Miodowicz had proposed holding it. The report of the upcoming debate had aroused great interest in Poland.

But what had the participants themselves expected of the meeting? Alfred Miodowicz made an unambiguous and brief statement: "Confrontation on television is better than confrontation in the streets." Lech Walesa's position remained contradictory and in many ways unclear until the very last minute. After originally accepting the offer, he soon began making his own demands: He would

not conduct the debate with Miodowicz alone but with his advisers, and the venue must be not a television studio but the territory of Gdansk Shipyard....

However, the meeting still took place. As the initiator of the debate, Alfred Miodowicz began the discussion first. In this situation, the OPZZ chairman emphasized, the split in labor collectives resulting from the last wave of strikes in May-August this year appears particularly dramatic. Mr Walesa, Miodowicz remarked, once said in this connection that he "weeps with one eye but rejoices with the other." Such a response is only to be regretted: For there is nothing to rejoice at in such a situation. The country now needs most of all the consolidation of labor collectives and their cohesion to resolve production tasks.

It is Lech Walesa's conviction that the chief thing that Poland needs today is pluralism. Above all, economic and trade union pluralism. In the economy it means the equality of all sectors, a free market, and the removal of bureaucratic obstacles.

"But we are moving in just this direction," Alfred Miodowicz retorted. "I wish to remind you: What Pan Walesa is saying has been copied verbatim, as it were, from the 'alternative development of the national economy' proposed by the OPZZ as long ago as last year. It cannot be said that all this has already been implemented. Many of the trade unions' demands were not supported by the previous government. As is known, it was forced to resign on receiving a vote of no confidence. However, as far as can now be judged, the new government intends to act quite differently, consistently and decisively. You cannot fail to notice these moves...."

Walesa agreed: Yes, there have been moves. But, from his viewpoint, they are happening too slowly. And, as he insistently asserted, there can be just one radical medicine—the legalization of "Solidarity," whose underground structures have been preserved to this day and are operating in many enterprises. But can "Solidarity" really be a medicine against the ills of the Polish economy? To avoid charges of prejudice, we will cite the opinion of the influential British weekly THE ECONOMIST: "No miracle occurred in the economy when this union first became legal in 1980. On the contrary, after that Poland's difficulties began to increase still more. The legal 'Solidarity' did not reduce the Polish foreign debt of $39 billion or increase the national income...."

It is worth pointing out that the OPZZ also considers itself as being in opposition to the government, but as a constructive opposition, ready to cooperate with the authorities and to promote changes which serve the working people's interests. In addressing the Seventh PZPR Central Committee plenum, Alfred Miodowicz emphasized: "Our goal is socialism without distortions. This slogan enshrines the essence of the program of the revived Polish trade unions... It means the following: accepting socialism and considering it their vital concern; working people preventing the flouting of legality: crudeness and incompetence, violations of social justice."

"Only a strong trade union can cope with these tasks. This is why we believe that there must be just one trade union at every enterprise," Alfred Miodowicz emphasized, continuing the debate. "Our movement now unites approximately 7 million people. Some 4.5 million of them were previously in 'Solidarity.' And, as many people know, I myself was once also a member of it. And because we have started speaking of democracy, I wish to suggest to you, Pan Walesa: Join our ranks; participate in elections; hold elected posts by democratic means! That will be real trade union pluralism."

In reply, Walesa repeated a well-known slogan: "There is no freedom without 'Solidarity.'" True, he did then add that "Solidarity" is different now. "There is a difference between words and deeds," A. Miodowicz retorted.

Well, if "Solidarity" really is different now, how are we to understand the slogans which are greatly in vogue with its extremist supporters: "Down with the commune!" "Communism is Satan's handiwork," and "By uniting in 'Solidarity' we will tear off the fetters of communism"? How can this "new" "Solidarity" be combined with the overtly inflammatory appeals to oppose the constitutional system? And how can statements about "Solidarity's" "new" aspect be linked with the million-dollar handouts which the U.S. Congress is continuing to pay out to maintain its illegal structures?

During the debate Lech Walesa also mentioned the cadre changes which are supposedly being made in "Solidarity." Unfortunately, this argument sounds equally unconvincing. Let us look, for example, at who Walesa himself had been intending to take with him to the television debate. The same old J. Kuron and A. Michnik—his closest advisers who have long been appearing in the role of experts within "Solidarity." Their views, unfortunately, have not changed over the past years. Here, for example, is what Adam Michnik wrote in the Spanish newspaper LA VANGUARDIA: "What we want today is a Poland without communism." Jacek Kuron was no less candid in his statements: "There is a real chance that under central pressure, perhaps strike pressure, the existing system will be broken...."

Perhaps Walesa himself now thinks differently. Some of his recent speeches have been distinguished by a certain political balance and reasonableness. It would also be possible to agree with a number of his assertions made directly during the debate. The Polish press regards the very fact of such a meeting and the amicable and calm nature of the conversation as a reassuring sign. The question now is whether this sign will be a determining factor in the behavior of "Solidarity's" former leader, and whether Walesa is prepared to maintain this tone in the dialogue with the authorities.

Zaykov Interviewed During 'Days of Prague'

AU0912153388 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 Dec 88 p 6

[Interview with Lev Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by RUDE PRAVO Moscow correspondent Lubor Kazda: "Let Us Mutually Draw From Experience"—in Moscow, date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the opening of the Days of Prague in Moscow, Lev Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of the CPSU Moscow City Committee, gave an interview to our Moscow correspondent Lubor Kazda, in which he answered RUDE PRAVO's questions.

Comrade Zaykov said, among other things, that the new meeting of old friends will bring a lot that is new and useful to both our cities, and will constitute a new step in strengthening and developing Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship and cooperation.

[Kazda] How do you assess the level of cooperation between Moscow and Prague, what clear results do you see in this respect, and what tasks do our capitals face as regards the further development of friendly relations?

[Zaykov] Our cooperation is strengthening year by year. It is based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, on the unity of goals of the CPSU and the CPCZ. The content of this cooperation has been enriched in recent years. Ties and working contacts between party and social collectives of the two capitals are strengthening. A number of industrial enterprises and scientific collectives have established direct production and scientific-technical relations. Cooperation is developing, joint ventures are being established, and an intensive exchange is under way. The number of delegations of representatives of party, state, trade union, and youth organizations and work collectives which are mutually studying work experience has increased. Contacts in cultural exchange are expanding. Of late, the practice of exchanging groups of working people in boarding houses and recreation centers and of children staying in pioneers' camps has been expanded.

All this constitutes a concrete implementation of the accord on cooperation between party, state, trade union, youth, and work collectives of Prague and Moscow through 1990.

At the same time, however, life—with its contemporary dynamism—literally introduces its own amendments into our mutual relations. We strive to take them into consideration. And in connection with them, the aforementioned accord on cooperation will be substantially complemented. Its new text is being signed on the opening day of the Days of Prague. I am pleased to be able to stress that our relations are acquiring a concrete form now. Certain features of sloganeering and formalism are disappearing, and efficiency and pragmatism and bilateral efforts for practical results are increasing.

We value what was achieved in the past, but at the same time we have come to the conclusion that thus far, the pace of development lags behind both potential and needs. Development is being retarded by a number of unresolved legal issues and ossified management mechanisms. We are doing all we can so that the system of management and the entire atmosphere of economic activity will stimulate enterprises to develop mutually advantageous specialization and cooperation.

Regarding specific problems of cooperation and the further development of relations, we can learn much that is useful from the experience of our Prague colleagues in building up municipal services, in taking care of architectural monuments when modernizing the city, in ensuring food supplies, ensuring recreation, and developing civic self-administration in the localities. Together with the Prague CPCZ City Committee and other city organizations, we must make a greater effort when it comes to coordinating friendly relations and having valuable experience reach its addressee more quickly. In this respect much can and must be done by our press and other media. So far we have been making insufficient use of cooperation in ideology and culture. State, trade union, and youth organizations can and must cooperate more efficiently. And we believe that precisely during the Days of Prague useful new steps will be taken in this direction.

[Kazda] The Moscow party organization is preparing intensively for its city conference, which will be held next January. What is at present typical for Moscow party life? How are the preparations for the conference progressing, and what new and interesting things can be expected from the conference?

[Zaykov] The course worked out at the 27th CPSU Congress and the subsequent Central Committee sessions, and at the 19th all-union party conference, reflect a vital need for our country. The more profoundly we analyze all spheres of the life of Soviet society and its development in recent years, the more convinced we are about the correctness of the choice made in April 1985.

The new political, moral, and psychological atmosphere—glasnost, openness—which are taking root in our life, have a beneficial effect. This also fully applies to Moscow. Restructuring of the political system is under way. We are asserting a new comprehension of the role of the party as a political vanguard of society. The reform which are we carrying out is to eliminate the deformations of past years, reintroduce the Leninist concept and practice of government of the people, ensure the development of self-management, and strengthen the socialist rule of law and legal guarantees. The final objective is the separation of the functions of the party and state bodies, and giving full powers to the soviets.

The Moscow party organization, relying on the bodies of people's administration and acting through them, is now concentrating its efforts more effectively than has been the case to date on making use of that immense material and intellectual potential concentrated in the capital, in order to draw the maximum from the experience, know-how, and skill of the working people.

The state of Moscow's economy is improving. Consumer goods worth R1.3 billion will be produced in excess of the 5-year plan's target in the next 3 years. In those first 3 years Muscovites will get in excess of the plan more than 700,000 square meters of apartments, 2,800 places in schools, and almost 10,000 places in kindergartens; the capacity of polyclinics will increase above plan by 6,000 visits per shift; and more than 100 catering and trade facilities will be completed.

On the whole, however, the restructuring process is proceeding with difficulty. The problems that have accumulated are great, above all as regards the solution of urgent social issues. The shortage of apartments is the most acute problem. We have agreed to increase funds for housing construction to the detriment of the construction of production projects. Additional funds for housing are being freed from incomes of enterprises. The extent of housing construction will annually increase to such an extent that at the beginning of the third millenium we will be able to provide an apartment to each Moscow family.

Another problem is supplying the city with goods and providing services. In that respect, too, more is being done. We are substantially expanding the production of consumer goods manufactured by light industry. We are activating the sphere of services for the populace. In order to resolve problems, other spheres of the national economy have also become involved in this work. At the same time, however, more than 100 Moscow enterprises have not begun manufacturing consumer goods. As you can see, there is plenty of untapped potential.

The problems that have come to fruition in Moscow are being resolved by the unified general plan for the capital's development, at present worked out up to the year 2010, and the "Progress 95" program, which relies on the latest achievements of scientific-technical progress, and which concerns all branches of the national economy in Moscow, while taking into consideration regional interests. A new scheme for the management of Moscow's national economy concentrates on a speedy solution of these problems as well.

A very responsible period for the Moscow party organization, the period of annual membership meetings, is drawing to a close. We can only be pleased by the fact that the party organizations have been infused with the open, active, and constructive atmosphere of the 19th all-union conference. And I must also stress the fact that broad strata of the working people are becoming increasingly energetically involved in the political life of the capital, and are assuming responsibility for the solution of practical issues connected with restructuring. More than a million Moscow Communists took part in the annual membership meetings. They submitted 415,000 concrete proposals and suggestions oriented toward the activation of the work of party organizations and elected party bodies, and toward deepening the responsibility of economic ranking personnel. Some 40 percent of the proposals have already been implemented.

A number of new aspects are coming into being. What is involved in the first place is the active participation by nonparty members in the annual membership meetings. The practical aspect of the election of party bodies is being perfected. At every third annual meeting the chairman of the organization was elected from two or more candidates. The range of problems discussed at meetings has been considerably expanded. The issues that are being discussed at meetings are tailored more closely to the specific needs of the people and work collectives. Typical in this connection is the fact that among the number of unresolved problems submitted to the city party committee, those concerning economic bodies have considerably dropped.

[Kazda] What changes is restructuring introducing into the work of the Moscow CPSU City Committee and the activity of its presidium?

[Zaykov] We have, for all practical reasons, concluded the reorganization and the reduction of the apparatuses both the city and the district party committees in Moscow. We abolished branch departments in the apparatus of the city committee. The apparatus was reduced by one-third. At the same time its cadre composition was substantially renewed. The purpose of the reorganization was to rid the apparatus of the need to fulfil administrative-economic functions and concentrate its time and energy on organizational, political, and ideological work. The newly created departments will have the task of fundamentally changing the style of work, ridding themselves of departmental approaches and the practice of acting instead of economic bodies, and directing attention to key problems of a socioeconomic nature, to ideological activity, and to deep penetration of social processes and improving cadre work.

We are striving to enhance the role of elected party bodies. We regard achieving a new quality in cooperation with the primary CPSU organization as the most important aspect of our work. We are concentrating on making their role clearly increase. We are eliminating the phenomena of petty bossiness over primary organizations. We are enhancing the authority of party committees and presidiums, strengthening the authority of chairmen of organizations, and overcoming the passiveness of a part of the party ranks.

We are striving for the broad masses of the Soviet people to become increasingly involved in restructuring. And in the great strength and activity of the primary party organizations we see the main factor for expanding the mass base of restructuring.

[Kazda] I thank you for the interview.

CSSR's Janak Ends Working Visit to USSR

LD0812163488 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Ignac Janak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, ended his working visit to the Soviet Union today. Miroslav Sole, our special correspondent, reports:

[Sole] This morning Comrade Ignac Janak visited the Kiev Elektronmash production association, which specializes in the production of modern computers and has almost 14,000 employees. The Czechoslovak guest was welcomed by (Arnold Nazarchuk), general director of the association. Janak was briefed on the production program, in which specialists from CEMA countries, including Czechoslovakia, participate in a design capacity. Then Comrade Janak visited production halls. In a conversation that followed, it was noted that despite the tradition of mutual cooperation—for example with the Bratislava Tesla enterprise—it is necessary to continue to look for new forms of cooperation, which at the present time means focusing above all on the establishment of direct production-scientific relations.

In the afternoon, Comrade Janak ended his working visit to the Soviet Union and left Kiev by air for Bratislava.

Katushev, CSSR Counterpart Conduct Talks

AU0712191688 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 Dec 88 p 7

[Unattributed report in the "24 Hours Abroad" column]

[Text] Jan Sterba, CSSR minister of foreign trade, conferred with his Soviet counterpart Konstantin Katushev in Moscow on Friday and Saturday [2 and 3 December]. Among other things, the two ministers assessed specific issues connected with the trade exchange between the two countries in 1989.

Goods Exchange Protocol Signed

LD1012202388 Moscow International Service in Czech 1600 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] At the end of talks between the government delegations of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia a protocol was signed in Moscow today on goods exchange payments for 1989. Czechoslovakia continues to hold an important place in the foreign economic activity of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union remains the main partner of Czechoslovakia.

In 1989 the Soviet Union will supply Czechoslovakia with metalworking machinery, construction, road and agricultural machinery, aircraft technology, computer technology equipment, personal cars, truck, and technical consumer goods. Just as before, it will supply basic raw material goods and materials. Czechoslovakia will supply the Soviet Union with metalworking machinery, industrial equipment, apparatus, shunting locomotives, main line electrical locomotives, trolley cars, trucks, and equipment for light industry. Chemical products and consumer goods will have an important place in Czechoslovak supplies to the Soviet Union.

The protocol includes a considerable amount of mutual supplies of equipment for nuclear power stations, and the reconstruction and modernization of large industrial enterprises, both in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. It also provides for Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation in utilizing the Yamburg gas and condensate field, in the construction of the Yamburg gas pipeline, and in the western frontier of the Soviet Union and the Ural gas complex.

The protocol also serves the practical realization of the comprehensive program of long-term economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia during the period up to the year 2000. Cooperation within the framework of direct relations between enterprises and organizations of both countries will receive a further development impulse. The realization of undertakings that are set out in the protocol will help to continue the planned development of the two countries' national economies, and to more fully satisfy the needs of Soviet and Czechoslovak inhabitants.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and [word indistinct] cooperation. The protocol was signed by Comrade Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, and Comrade Jan Sterba, Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade.

Prague Notes Trade Agreement Signed in Moscow

LD0712234888 Prague CTK in English 2018 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow Dec 7 (CTK correspondent)—A protocol on the exchange of consumer goods on the life of home trade for the year 1989 was signed here today by Czech Minister of Trade and Tourism Josef Rab and Soviet Trade Minister Kondrat Terekh.

The exchange of goods, the aim of which is to enrich the home market of the two countries, is to reach the value of 102 million roubles. In the framework of the protocol, Czechoslovakia will import colour television sets, refrigerators, watches, cotton fabrics and other goods.

Minister Josef Rab was also received by alternate member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Aleksandra Biryukova. They discussed question of the two countries' cooperation in the sphere of home trade and tourism.

CSSR Party Official, Delegation Visit 5-10 Dec

LD1012200988 Moscow International Service in Czech 1600 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] In harmony with the plan for interparty contacts between the CPSU and the CPCZ, a delegation of party workers headed by Comrade Hegenbart, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and head of the state administration department of the CPCZ Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union during 5-10 December to acquaint itself with legal experiences in restructuring.

Comrade Hegenbart was received by Comrade Chebrikov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Present at the meeting was Comrade Jindrich Rehorek, CSSR ambassador in the Soviet Union.

West Europe

Reaction to Gorbachev UN Speech Reported

UK's Thatcher Comments

LD1012225788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Viktor Levin commentary introduced by Igor Zorin]

[Text] [Zorin] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an interview to the BBC, has described as a very positive step the decisions which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev announced in the United Nations on a reduction of the armed forces and armaments in the Soviet Union. Margaret Thatcher also said that these decisions reflect an extremely fundamental change in the position of the Soviet Union. The following phrase also resounded: They are reducing their superiority in conventional armaments from three to one down to two to one. In my view, the latter phrase sounds ambiguous, to put it mildly. What do you think? I asked this of my collegue Viktor Levin.

[Levin] I am ready to agree that the phrase about the correlation in conventional armaments sounds ambiguous. But I would not bother to pay great attention to it. After all, the point is not whether, in the opinion of the West, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact Organization as a whole possess an extremely significant advantage. It would probably not be realistic to expect taht the West would immediately agree that there is no advantage or soon will not be any.

If we talk about the Margaret Thatcher interview, as is most characteristic, we must first pay attention to the positive evaulations which she gave—evaluations which sounded very eloquent. As for the problem of reducing conventional arms and forces as a whole, then I think that those political and military figures of the Western states—and I do not mean the interview of Margaret Thatcher in the given case—are wrong when they speak only about the decision of the Soviet Union to reduce by 10,000 the number of its tanks on European territory of a country and on the territory of our European allies. It is necessary, strictly speaking, to add 8,500 artillery systems and 800 combat aircraft to the tanks.

But I think this is not the most important thing. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said that, alongside the six tank divisions, the assault, paratroop, and several other units and formations, including assault river-crossing formations and their armaments and combat equipment, will also be removed from among the groups of the Soviet troops located in the GDR, CSSR and Hungary. The point therefore is not only and not so much a cut in numbers, but rather a cut in quality. After all, even our Soviet divisions which remain for the meantime on the territory of our allies will be reformed. They are being given a different structure as compared with today's, a structure which will become unambiguously defensive after the major withdrawal of tanks from them. And this point should be given particular attention.

The member-states of the Warsaw Pact stressed more than 2 years ago that their military doctrine bears a deeply defensive character. At that time, they in the West said that this was mere talk. Well then, in our time of devaluation of many words, no assertions are accepted on trust. Definite deeds are needed. And here, now, the Soviet Union, along with its allies, is demonstrating in deed and through specific measures to reduce conventional weapons, an adherence to a desire to have deeply defensive armed forces. Thereby, a turn is being implemented by our country from the principle of overarmament to the principle of reasonable sufficiency for defense. This is truly an innovatory approach in which the first step being implemented by the Soviet Union goes far, in terms of its significance, beyond the numerical parameters of this reduction in tanks, artillery systems, and so on. And when Margaret Thatcher speaks of a most fundamental change in our approach, she, judging by everything, is giving due respect to the quality of our reductions.

UK Defense Minister Cited

LD1112094088 Moscow TASS in English 0846 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] London December 11 TASS—British Defence Secretary George Younger welcomed the Soviet Union's decision unilaterally to reduce the Soviet conventional Armed Forces to a considerable extent.

Speaking at a meeting of the European Movement for Freedom in Westminster Saturday night, he pointed out that chances to achieve progress along the road lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe grow as a result of this step.

At the same time the British defence secretary maintained that following the unilateral arms reduction the Soviet Union and other states would still have a tremendous superiority over NATO in all components of conventional armed forces in Europe.

EEC's De Clercq Praises Speech

LD1112174388 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Brussels December 11 TASS—Willy de Clercq, member of the Commission of the European Community, an executive arm of the EEC, spoke highly about Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations.

The Soviet decision to reduce its armed forces, he told TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov, represents an important step towards balanced and controlled disarmament. The EEC welcomes all measures aimed at reducing military arsenals. It is vitally important to continue moving ahead along this road because mankind needs to channel resources used on arms stockpiles into development.

Willy de Clercq expressed satisfaction with improved East-West relations which was reflected, in particular, in establishing official relations between the EEC and CMEA. The Soviet decision to cut down its armed forces is part and parcel of this process, he noted.

FRG's Genscher Lauds Reductions

LD1112223988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report over video by correspondent in Bonn Vladimir Kondratev on meeting with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher]

[Text] I asked FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher how he evaluates the reduction in armed forces and armaments that has been announced by the Soviet Union. The minister said: I heard this news with feelings of deep satisfaction. I believe that this is a step of fundamental importance. I am convinced that it will facilitate all the forthcoming talks in the sphere of conventional armaments, because it eliminates a significant part of the Soviet superiority in Europe and will lead to a greater stability. This decision by the Soviet Government will influence the further development of dialogue between East and West as a whole. I think that it will not only affect the correlation of forces but it will also create greater trust. We need trust if we wish to make rapid progress during the talks which are to begin soon. We must not let slip those great opportunities which are now opening up in relations between East and West.

The figures for the forthcoming Soviet reductions were so stunning that, as the local information media correctly noted, many people simply refused to believe their ears. The troop reduction is comparable to the total size of the Bundeswehr—the FRG Army—which is considered to be the most powerful in Europe. Even Volker Ruehe and Horst Ehmke, prominent figures in the ruling Christian Democratic Union and opposition Social Democrat Party of Germany parties' who are usually at odds with each other, on this occasion agreed that Gorbachev's speech was an historic one. Ruehe called upon the West to take unilateral steps towards disarmament in the sphere of nuclear artillery and suggested that a ceiling for mutual parity should be put at 85 percent of the present NATO level.

Unfortunately, it must be admitted that there are still politicians in the FRG for whom the caption in this cartoon perfectly applies: [video shows Kondratev holding up cartoon from newspaper and reading caption] If the Russians were to disarm totally and unilaterally—it says—this is of course purely hypothetical, but my first reaction would be that this is not enough. Let us hope that at the talks which it is believed here will begin in February of next year, Bonn will nevertheless take up a position of common sense. [video shows Genscher; Ruehe, and Ehmke speaking on FRG TV and Kondratev on street]

FRG Sends Message to Gorbachev

LD1212071888 Moscow TASS in English 0714 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn December 12 TASS—Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), and Willy Brandt, SPD's honorary chairman and leader of the Socialist International, have sent a joint message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, emphasising a great positive importance of his U.N. address and of the new peace initiatives set out in it.

"The Soviet Union's decision unilaterally to reduce its armed forces and conventional arms", the message points out, "inspires great hopes in many people in the Federal Republic of Germany that lasting peace will be established in Europe in the foreseeable future and that it will become a reliable foundation for building a 'common European home'".

"The Soviet Union's energetic activities in the field of disarmament policy cannot but have a favourable effect on the entire spectrum of international relations", the document emphasises.

The unilateral reduction in the armed forces and armaments, the prominent SPD figures believe, should not be detrimental to the Soviet Union's defence capacity. At the same time this step will considerably strengthen its political prestige and will become a vivid example to show that the side which really wishes disarmament is the first to begin it. Such approach by the USSR gives ground to hope that the conversion of the armed forces of the two military alliances into purely defensive ones may develop from a wish into reality soon.

Brandt and Vogel urged NATO to give a constructive reply to the Soviet peace proposals, a reply which will make it possible to release additional resources and funds which are essential for solutions to global peace problems which are of paramount importance for the future of the whole of mankind.

Aid to Armenian Earthquake Victims Continues

UK Minister Cited on Aid

LD1012105188 Moscow TASS in English 1013 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] London December 10 TASS—Christopher Patten, British minister of state, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (overseas development), said on Friday that the British Government was ready to help Armenia hit by a powerful earthquake.

The British Red Cross is planning to appeal to the British people this week to start raising funds for the Soviet republic.

Speaking at a news conference on Friday Patten said that Britain was ready to grant five million pound sterlings in aid to the earthquake victims and allocate additional resources if necessary.

He said the British Government is considering, at the Soviet side's request, the delivery of two huge earth-moving tractors by the British Air Force plane "Hercules".

A group of British experts fitted out with special equipment designed to detect people lying under rubble, as well as 16 experienced members of the international rescue corps have already arrived in the Soviet Union.

Swedish Aid Noted

LD1012105588 Moscow TASS in English 1014 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Stockholm December 10 TASS—The Swedish people are conveying through the Soviet Embassy in Sweden their warmest sympathy and condolences to the Soviet people on the grave earthquake consequences in Armenia.

The Swedish Red Cross committee said it would render the necessary aid to the Soviet republic.

Hans Rausing, a well-known Swedish industrialist and head of the Tetra Pak concern, told Georgy Tarazevich, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and head of the Soviet Parliamentary delegation, that the concern's administration decided to donate a million Swedish crowns in contribution to disaster relief. The money will be spent on buying milk for children.

Swedish political leaders, scientists and ordinary citizens are also offering their help.

Norway Sending Medical Aid

LD0912182588 Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Oslo December 9 TASS—The Norwegian Red Cross prepared for delivery 13 tonnes of medical equipment and medicines to quake-stricken areas of Armenia. The NORWEGIAN NEWS BUREAU reports that the first cargo will be flown to Moscow on Saturday. The Norwegian side shoulders all transportation expenses.

Vadim Medvedev Gives Press Conference in Portugal

PM0912111288 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 4 Dec 88 p 4

[Unattributed report on a news conference given by CPSU Central Committee Secretary Vadim Medvedev on 3 December in Oporto: "Vadim Medvedev Agrees to Two or Three Parties in USSR"]

[Text] "I do not rule out the possibility (in the Soviet Union) of the existence of two or three parties, as in some socialist societies, but this is not the essence of democracy, which lies not in the number of parties but in the opportunity to discuss problems." This was said in Oporto yesterday by Vadim Medvedev, who heads the CPSU delegation to the PCP [Portuguese Communist Party] Congress.

Medvedev, CPSU secretary and chairman of the Central Committee's ideology commission, was answering a question asked by DIARIO DE NOTICIAS at a news conference given "in response to the many requests for interviews."

The Communist leader said, however, that the possibility was unlikely, since Soviet society is based on the existence of a single party that seeks to take account of the political leanings of all sectors of the population, giving them the opportunity to express themselves and to put forward solutions to problems in all fields, from the cultural to the economic.

"In the history of mankind," Medvedev said, "there is not one example of such a democratic lifestyle under a single party as ours." Elaborating on his reply, he added: "We are building a system that takes account of the entire spectrum of society and expresses itself within the framework of a single state of the entire people " "The artificial creation of parties" is not on the Soviet Union's horizon.

Restructuring and its development was naturally the topic that prompted the most curiosity among journalists. Medvedev did not evade any of the questions put to him: "Restructuring has raised ideological, cultural, economic, and social problems. It was the ideological sphere that yielded the most rapid results and we consider this a major success for restructuring and form a positive assessment of the democratization."

Despite these observations, the Soviet ideologist did not go to the other extreme, namely, that of condemning everything predating restructuring: "The criticism (of what went before) is exaggerated, and self-criticism is thus acquiring a unilateral character. We have some very positive achievements in our past. We raised the level of our society, which enabled us to travel in space; we resolved people's problems. Even our press does not always emphasize these aspects and challenges some of our fundamental values. We try to discuss the matter with the authors of the criticisms without exerting pressure."

The latest events in some of the republics that make up the Soviet Union earned a hitherto unfamiliar analysis from Medvedev. Without denying the serious situation, the CPSU leader said it was soluble through dialogue, "because the governments of those republics do not oppose the Moscow government."

Basically, the issue has to do with "internationalities"—a problem "rooted in past centuries." According to Medvedev, the development of those Baltic and Transcaucasian republics has no "parallel anywhere in the world," since in a few decades, he said, illiteracy has been eliminated, the economy has been industrialized, and local cultures have been given a voice. "We believed that the major objectives had been achieved and took a rest: But life goes on; new national awarenesses were formed, and gradually there emerged other problems—from the economic to the environmental—that were not analyzed and, indeed, became exacerbated. Restructuring did not create them: It merely allowed these problems to become apparent and provides the opportunity for their analysis," Medvedev said.

According to the CPSU official, some of those republics lacked the technological and human resources to make possible the development that has taken place, so it was necessary to "transfer" people from one to another. This factor is probably also behind the conflicts between nationalities.

The CPSU's relations with other communist parties will not be influenced by whether or not they accept restructuring, Medvedev stressed, adding that it was "a sovereign right of each party to accept it or not." With regard to the PCP, he said that it appears from [PCP Secretary General] Alvaro Cunhal's remarks at the opening session of the congress that it has a high degree of understanding of restructuring." [no opening quotation marks as published]

According to Medvedev, there is nothing unusual in the friendly relations between the USSR's Government and Mario Soares, despite Cunhal's criticisms of the president, since inter-party relations do not influence interstate relations.

Medvedev refused to discuss Zita Seabra [recently dismissed from PCP Executive] because he was "unacquainted with the case and because it is the internal affair of another party." When the PCP member was described to him as a "champion of restructuring," he said that "many claim to be champions of restructuring...."

Nikiforov Receives Italian Envoy 7 Dec
PM0912104388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 7 December V.M. Nikiforov, USSR deputy foreign minister, received S. Romano, Italian ambassador to the Soviet Union, at his request. During the conversation they touched upon some international problems of mutual interest and also a number of practical questions of Soviet-Italian relations.

Tolstykh Receives Head of UK's Pergamon Press
LD0612175688 Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 6 TASS—Soviet Deputy Head of Government Boris Tolstykh, who chairs the State Committee for Science and Technology, received Robert Maxwell, president of Pergamon Press, on December 5.

They discussed practical matters and prospects for cooperation in the field of information systems, including the issue of launching a joint venture.

Latin America & Caribbean

Ortega Supports Gorbachev Foreign Debt Proposals
LD1112114888 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Managua December 11 TASS—Nicaragua ardently supports the Soviet Union's initiatives which were proposed from the U.N. rostrum by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and which concern a solution to the foreign debt problem of the developing countries, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said on Saturday in a speech at a meeting of the republic's National Assembly.

The Soviet Union's call to defer the repayment of foreign debts by the developing countries for a hundred years and in individual cases to cancel them finds a ready response in the hearts of the Nicaraguans, the Nicaraguan leader said.

The Soviet proposal are a worthy example for other states. They illustrate the Soviet Union's readiness to cooperate with the peoples of the developing countries, Daniel Ortega emphasized.

Brazil's Sarney on Gorbachev UN Speech

LD1112133588 Moscow TASS in English 1321 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Brasilia December 11 TASS—President Jose Sarney of Brazil has described Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the U.N. as extremely realistic and objective. Addressing journalists in the state of Sao Paulo, he expressed special satisfaction over the statement to the effect that Brazil should play a more active part in the solution of key international problems.

In a traditional radio address to the nation the president pointed out that mutual understanding between the USSR and the U.S. instils hope of a peaceful future which, in its turn, can become a guarantee of economic development.

Castro Sees Off Cuban Relief Plane for Armenia

LD1012234288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by correspondent I. Fesunenko, identified by caption]

[Text] The Republic of Cuba has picked up the international relay baton of solidarity, sympathy, and assistance. A large batch of 12,000 doses of plasma for blood transfusions for those affected by the earthquake in Armenia has been loaded onto an Aeroflot Il-76TD airplane bound for Moscow at Havana's Jose Marti airport. Comrade Fidel Castro came to the airfield to see the plane off.

[Video shows Castro speaking] Fidel Castro is saying: We are ready to send not only blood but anything that is needed—anything. The Soviet people are also giving their blood now. A great deal of it is needed now, we don't even know how much yet. Perhaps we are not sending so much now, it is rather a symbolic gesture. But we are ready to sacrifice everything. If 100,000 [units not specified] is needed then we will give 100,000. We are ready to give you all of our blood that you need without hesitation. We are now preparing a detachment of doctors which will be sent to Armenia, and there are many people who wish to go there. There are masses of requests from Cuban construction workers. So many people want to go that we simply can't send them all. We now feel a very powerful surge of emotion among our people, a surge of sympathy, compassion, a desire to do all they can to help those affected.

The last handshakes and parting words. Fidel Castro recalls that tomorrow another batch of plasma will be sent on a Cuban airplane. Then a Cuban mobile hospital will be flown to Armenia, and, a little later, a detachment of construction workers from Havana. The relay baton of solidarity, sympathy, and fraternity is continuing across continents and oceans.

Kiselev-led CPSU Delegation Visits Colombia

PM0912140588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Delegation's Departure"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by G.N. Kiselev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, departed Moscow for Bogota 8 December to take part in the work of the 15th Colombian Communist Party Congress at the invitation of the Colombian Communist Party leadership.

Arrives in Bogota 9 Dec

PM1212094188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Dec 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] 10 Dec—A CPSU delegation headed by G.N. Kiselev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Bogota 9 December. It will be taking part in the 15th Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] Congress at the invitation of the PCC leadership.

The CPSU delegation was met at the Colombian capital's international airport by Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the PCC Central Committee, and other members of the PCC leadership.

Soviet-Peruvian Trade Talks Held in Lima

PM0512105988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] Lima, 3 Dec—The latest session of the Soviet-Peruvian Intergovernmental Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and Fisheries has ended here.

V.N. Burmistrov, head of the Soviet delegation and USSR deputy minister of foreign economic relations, was received by the country's president Alan Garcia.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Tours Earthquake's 'Disaster Zone'

Visits Leninakan, Yerevan

LD1012195488 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 10 TASS—A terrible disaster has befallen the Armenian soil. It has left Leninakan and Spitak in ruins, caused destruction in Kirovakan and Stepanavan, and rendered homeless thousands of families who now try to keep warm at bonfires at night.

Tens of thousands of people died and thousands of others were injured in the earthquake which hit an area with a population of more than 700,000.

Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, arrived in Armenia on December 10 to share with the victims, their relatives and friends their profound sorrow and work out specific rescue measures.

Gorbachev, accompanied by Nikolay Ryzhkov, Nikolay Slyunkov, Dmitriy Yazov and other members of a Politburo earthquake commission, and by Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, acquainted himself with the resuce work in Leninakan.

Ruins of residential houses, public and office buildings, heaps of twisted ferroconcrete structures, and deep gaps in the scorched land lie on both sides of the road leading to Leninakan from the airport immediately after it enters the city.

Thousands of people using cranes and other equipment are trying to rescue people trapped in rubble.

Gorbachev approaches the wreckage of a building where he is immediately surrounded by a lot of people. Crying women speak about the death of their relatives and ask for help. Some men shout: "We need above all equipment, we need heavy-duty cranes".

Gorbachev says he lacks adequate words to express what he feels seeing the ruined city.

"We all, the whole of the country shares your sorrow. You can be sure that every effort will be made to give you the necessary help in full measure," the Soviet leader says.

"The most important thing now is to search for and rescue all survivors. Children and women must be evacuated as soon as possible. Georgia, the Krasnodar, Stavropol and other regions have already prepared room for 50,000 people. I hope men will stay here to help clear rubble."

Another stop. Gorbachev and other leaders try to reassure people. They tell them about relief aid being extended to Leninakan and other cities hit by the quake.

About 80 planes with various cargo arrived at the airport only today. Tens of planes have already left for Armenia or are being loaded practically in all constituent republics.

Aid comes from the Urals, Siberia, Kamchatka.

About 500 cranes are to arrive here by tomorrow. Planes, dispatched by the governments of other countries and international organizations and carrying physicians and other specialists, medicines, tents and blankets, are arriving here all the time.

Roads and railways have been mainly restored. Measures are being taken to supply disaster victims with food, medicines, temporary dwelling, clothes and footwear, and restore power and water supply and communication.

One of the French rescuers, who have come to search for survivors in ruins, approaches Mikhail Gorbachev at one of the meetings. Mikhail Gorbachev extends warm thanks to them for the readiness to help us in the misfortune. Those who came from a number of other countries already got down to work. Perhaps it is impossible to more vividly express the noble human solidarity.

Along the road amid ruins one can see time and again first aid centres. Minister of Public Health of the USSR Yevgeniy Chazov said that medical assistance is being given to all who need it. A number of operation rooms have been arranged, tons of medicinal materials are being brought. The minister spoke of the Armenian doctors who selflessly continue discharging their duty even in the most tragic circumstances, having lost relatives and friends.

Soldiers and officers can be seen wherever rescue operations are under way. Soviet servicemen are not only clearing obstructions, but also helping maintain order, are restoring roads and erecting tents. Hot food is being cooked in field kitchens.

Having come to Yerevan the same day, Mikhail Gorbachev held a working meeting to discuss the necessary measures of assistance to earthquake victims. Thought must now be given to the most pressing task, that of saving people. It is also necessary to get prepared for restoration of the wrecked towns. Our misfortune is infinite, the losses are immense. But all the republics through joint efforts will do their utmost to support fraternal Armenia. [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 1855 GMT on 10 December carries a similar report which adds the following:

"Taking part in the conference were Nikolay Ryzhkov; Nikolay Slyunkov; Dmitriy Yazov; Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee; Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee; Dzhumber Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee; Yuriy Batalin, Lev Vorinin, and Boris Shcherbina, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; AUCCTU Chairman Stepan Shalayev; Viktor Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; USSR ministers; Grant Voskanyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Fadey Sarkisyan, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers."]

Gorbachev in Spitak, Kirovakan

LD1112214588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report on Gorbachev 11 December walkabouts in Spitak and Kirovakan following earthquake, by correspondents A. Tikhomirov, V. Nazaryan, Yu. Prokofyev, I. Galperin, A. Savin, Ye. Orlov, and M. Nersesyan—recorded]

[Text] The rescue work in the areas of the natural disaster in Armenia is continuing. Today Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev visited the cities of Spitak and Kirovakan. Our correspondents report from the disaster zone.

[Correspondent (?Tikhomirov)] This is the town of Spitak, which was visited today by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. A month ago, we filmed a report here from the local garments association. As it turned out, this was the last report about that enterprise. There are ruins in place of the tailors' buildings, the elevator lift-building works, the houses, schools, and shops. And all around are thousands of people. By and large, these are people who have come from Yerevan and the republic's other cities and rayons, because, tragically, today there are only 1/10 as many Spitak people left as there were on the morning of that fateful day. This is the fifth day that rescue work has been going on nonstop, and virtually without sleep. The mounds have shrunk noticeably during this time, but the grief has intensified. Yesterday one more person buried alive was saved in Spitak. But happy cases such as that are becoming more and more rare.

The conversation with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev centered on this and on other grave problems of what may be called the ex-town. Perhaps the shape of future towns in the area is being drafted in the offices of those in the USSR State construction committee who think strategically. The cost has been calculated, and as Mikhail Sergeyevich said, 5 billion rubles [figure as heard] are being allocated by the state for restoration. But today, the talk was of the most painful and upsetting things.

[Unidentified man] What about the Institute of Geophysics, where lots of doctors work? It should be held responsible for this. Why couldn't they have known in advance and given a warning. We are asking and demanding...why couldn't they have given a warning?

[Gorbachev] You know, we, too, are putting forward such demands. Nowhere in the world is there yet a method in use that provides forewarning.

[Man] And something else. The builders should also be held responsible. One house falls down, while another...

[Gorbachev] The governmental commission established by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov just has to see to the most important things right now and will then sort out why it is that buildings put up 3 years ago rumbled, whereas those four- and five-storied houses erected under Khrushchev are still standing.

Now, comrades, people are asking about an epidemic. Last night, when we returned from Leninakan, we held a conference and examined one question after another. And incidentally, the minister of defense issued an order that those boys serving in the military who are from this area should return to their families and be here. The telegram was sent.

[Indistinct calls from the crowd]

[Gorbachev] How many? [video shows gorbachev looking to one side seeking answer]

[Unidentified man at Gorbachev's side] Three thousand nine hundred people have already been released and have departed.

[Gorbachev] Three thousand nine hundred have already been released and have departed.

[Unidentified man] Are they going to arrive and just go?

[Gorbachev] No, they will be here until all this...

[Indistinct questions from crowd]

[Gorbachev] Yes. That is, they will maintain contact with the military registration office. And now, on the subject of epidemics. At the moment, the most important task is this: Yesterday Comrade Chazov, the minster, who is working here, the doctors, who have done a tremendous amount, from Yerevan, students from medical [Gorbachev changes thought] from Georgia, Moscow—all the best people are here—academicians. The most difficult operation is being carried out. At night airmen from Yerevan Airport—and neither the airport nor the lighting was working—took the injured away in the dark. They have done a tremendous amount and have rendered assistance, and by and large they have been coping. They have been coping. They've done all they could do. Now it's the people who are in need, or

who have been dug out somewhere, or who have had something happen to them. [video shows general scenes of devastation; cranes lifting sections of buildings; diggers lifting loads of rubble; Gorbachev addressing a huge crowd; Raisa is shown standing beside him, with Ryzhkov and Slyunkov also visible]

Yesterday the question was posed: what about an epidemic? And this is a serious question. Granted, the conclusion reached by the doctors was this: given the weather and with the dead still in the ruins, there could be something. There is no danger for 7 days. And so we have to make sure everything is sorted out within the week. Everything must be done. This is far from simple, but everything must be done, and special steps must be drawn up in case there is anything here.

[Unidentified man from Gorbachev's side] Rain or snow. Yesterday's, yes?

[Unidentified man in crowd] May I? I am a bit worried because we have been here for 4 days now. The most important thing is to get them out of the ground. The boys [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] That's the main thing at the moment.

[Man] That is the most important thing. And at the moment there is nobody. Just working people who...

[?Gorbachev] Too few cranes.

[Unidentified man] There's no machinery.

[Second unidentified man] No, what I mean is we have these—what are they called—rescue groups. Maybe they are helping but they go their own ways. Why won't they help? There are so many people, we are suffering, for instance. Why? [indistinct mutterings from crowd]

[Unidentified man forcing his way through crowd] There are very many rescue teams.

[Gorbachev] How many?

[Man] There are more than 500 rescue teams here. That is, student detachments from all the republics. From the very first day...

[Gorbachev] No. Those are student detachments. What about experts?

[Man] Experts? We have more than 20 detachments.

[Gorbachev] More than 20?

[Man] Yes, more than 20 detachments who have specially (?come).

[Gorbachev] But more are required.

[Man] More are needed. Experts and engineers who can tell us how to sort things out. [video shows Gorabchev speaking to the crowd]

[Correspondent] In Spitak Mikhail Sergeyevich met a group of rescue experts who had come over from France. In the space of 4 days, these specially trained detachments of Frenchmen—just like our Donbass miners, who incidentally are also working here—have become legendary. [video shows a French expert saluting and shaking hands with Gorbachev and Raisa; they exchange a few words]

This is what semi-destroyed Kirovakan looks like today. There is not a single industrial enterprise functioning in the city at the moment. Debris clearing is proceeding at full speed, but there is a lack of the required machinery. There is a shortage of tents for the homeless. This was also mentioned during the conversation at Kirovakan today. [video shows piles of debris being cleared manually and by diggers; Gorbachev, Raisa, and Ryzhkov seen surrounded by crowd]

Interview Condemns NKAO Corruption

LD1112185488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1640 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Interview with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to correspondents of Gostelradio, the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, on 11 December in Yerevan, prior to his departure for Moscow—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Armenian television. Mikhail Sergeyevich, what have you gathered from your trip to the disaster areas?

[Gorbachev] It is a grave disaster, simply a tragedy. I have seen so many people in trouble, who have lost near and dear ones, entire families. I have simply been shaken by everything that I have seen in these 2 days. It is simply difficult to bear this in human terms, it is unbearable. And I would like once again, on behalf of the leadership, on my own behalf, and for the whole of our people, to express words of the most sincere, profound sympathy to the families who have found themselves in such trouble, to all the Armenian people. And I would like to say right away that they have already sensed this, that our people are taking everything very close to heart. The whole country has risen to it, everyone is prepared to do everything they can to come to people's aid. And so, such are my immediate feelings, they are difficult ones, I am simply shaken by everything that I have seen.

We have just been in a small town of 20,000, Spitak. Everything is destroyed. Leninakan—it is almost completely destroyed. All this is simply very distressing. I learned here that in the first hours of the most difficult first night, when the towns, the town of Leninakan was cut off, the airport was destroyed, the railway had ceased functioning, the highway was also destroyed; in this

situation, Yerevan—the doctors, the workers, the builders, the young people, the students, particularly from the medical departments—immediately they all set off for there in order to come to people's aid. The pilots were landing in total darkness; taking the seriously injured, they were brought out and here they did operations on them and saved their lives. And now I can see how the whole country has responded with such profound warmheartedness, such sincerity, to this our common tragedy. In this respect, we are proud of all our people. That is, how much is inherent in our peoples, what immense moral strength they possess.

Well, I have to say that the commission led by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, with Comrades Slyunkov, Yazov, and three of Comrade Ryzhkov's deputies taking part, as well as the leadership of the Republic of Armenia, they have all done a lot of work already. The roads are all open. Now the equipment has started arriving, all the help, all the resources, they have it all. Now it is organization that will be of decisive importance. First and foremost we must help to clear these piles of rubble, where there are stil many people buried alive. Because people are being freed there every day. I have met some of them. So the first task, the first thing being done, is to save those who are still alive. Those who have perished must also be recovered as befits human beings and given a funeral, understandably.

So far they have brought...[Gorbachev changes thought] By 0800 there will be 700 cranes. In another day, there will be 900 cranes to take all this apart, and all the other equipment. So now everything has entered the business-like phase, so to speak. People are working day and night. Power supplies are being restored, water is being supplied, the houses that remain are being heated. Now tents, heated ones, for 300,000 people have been brought here to accommodate them for the time being. Of course, we have to have special concern for the children, for women. And so here in Armenia, in Georgia, in Stavropol Kray and the Kuban [Krasnodar Kray], tens of thousands of places in guest houses and sanatoria have now been vacated, and they are waiting for them. And they have already started sending them off from Leninakan and Spitak.

They are traveling as classes with their teachers and mothers wherever help is necessary to save the children.

[Correspondent] Mikhail Sergeyevich, I think that this wide river of aid must somehow be divided into little streams to reach everyone.

[Gorbachev] Yes, you are right because even now—I can tell you—we were discussing this question especially yesterday—so much has arrived here, and many have sent things without asking—essential cargoes, medicines, foodstuffs, warm clothing, everything is coming. Now they are not even able to receive all this. It has been agreed that a special headquarters will communicate with the republics so that they can coordinate in a preliminary fashion. There are foodstuffs here now, bread is being baked, there is a water supply; I told you about the tents; medicine continues to arrive and I must say that the medical specialists headed by Minister Chazov have worked very skillfully, perhaps most skillfully of all. There is a greater degree of organization. Those areas have been closed because many people were arriving there for understandable reasons—their close ones and relatives were there—and this was hindering the operations. Everything has now been taken in hand, so to speak. I think that there is a greater degree of order now and results will be achieved more quickly. Everything so that, so to speak... [Gorbachev changes thought] Of course people are interested in the fate of their towns. This question has been discussed and considered. Of course, we must revive these towns. I have already said this on behalf of the leadership of the country—in all towns, so that they would know. This is their ancient land. Their roots are here, people from all generations live here. And it is clear to us that people must receive a reply to this.

Incidentally, 2 days ago, Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov invited representatives from all the republics here, and they pledged—and this is their proposal—to restore everything within 2 years, both towns and settlements and enterprises. After all, they were also destroyed. To restore everything so that people might again return to a normal life. Of course, what can't be done is to return the lives of people which have been lost. Some families simply perished. It is a great pity. It is a great pity for people.

But at this time of ordeal, I have also found the Armenian people to be courageous. And the weeping and the tears and the demands did not detract at all from the fact that we saw how people, despite everything, and without waiting for everything to be organized as it should be, selflessly used everything at their disposal to come to help.

[Correspondent] We saw the kind of scene where in neighboring villages and towns, people baked bread, placed it in the trunks of their own cars, brought it along, opened their trunks, and distributed it.

[Gorbachev] That's right. I saw this too. They were distributing warm flat cakes and loaves straight from their cars. In general, we are seeing, we have seen once again, what enormous spiritual reserves these people have!

[Correspondent] Mikhail Sergeyevich, I have really never in my life seen one thousandth part of the suffering which I have seen here in 3 days.

[Gorbachev] I have never seen anything like it. And simply...honestly speaking, it is even difficult for me to converse with you.

[Correspondent] But yesterday, slogans about Nagorno-Karabakh began circulating in Yerevan once again. What sort of blindness is this? One really does recall the biblical truth that if the blind lead the blind then both will fall into the abyss. After all, there is no good behind these slogans, only more unhappiness.

[Gorbachev] I'll tell you honestly, yesterday I was shaken by one fact. We were returning last night from Leninakan to the Central Committee, to discuss the practical issues of how to step up the scale of work, to rescue and provide facilities for people, in order to resolve practical matters and to reduce this tragedy.

Standing in the streets there were inhabitants of Armenia. I stopped in one place, and we had a good conversation. People were all upset, very upset, they were taking it painfully. I shared with them that I was simply shaken by what I had seen. What a tragedy has befallen the people.

And then suddenly, then and there in Yerevan, I am asked the question what will the relations be, will we arrange a dialogue with the informal organizations, and so on. I shall not continue. And once again the subject of Karabakh. You know, I said everything I think, maybe even sharply. I said, first and foremost, stop. If you would like, I can tell you what kind of misfortune has befallen both Azerbaijanis and Armenians, where they are being pushed, what point they have reached. Blood is flowing. And if right now you...with such a misfortune, the whole country, the whole world is troubled by what has occurred in Armenia, and the misfortune that has befallen the Armenian people, and here a person in the Armenian capital asks me how we are going to arrange a dialogue with the informal organizations. [sentence as heard] How devoid of morals (?and humanity) can a person be?

You know, I'll put it this way. I put it bluntly today, maybe you even heard. In Kirovakan, I told people, working people. They agreed with this and demanded, Mikhail Sergeyevich, all this has to be stopped. I think that there is a problem as such with Karabakh. It has roots. It has become exacerbated because, over a certain period, the former Azerbaijan leadership treated this population incorrectly, not in the spirit of Leninist traditions and simply in an inhumane manner at times. And people were offended by this, they were offended. We condemn this. That is exactly why we came to their aid. We adopted a decision in order to assist with the social-economic development. We allocated 500 million rubles for such a small oblast, in order to provide it with service facilities, solve people's problems, improve living conditons, resolve cultural issues, develop the native language and teaching, and establish normal relations with Armenia. This is all natural, this is all understandable, and this is the way things should be. And action must be taken and this must be tackled. But it is also true that a lot of problems have accumulated.

Recently after the session [of the Supreme Soviet] I invited comrades from the leadership together with members of the Central Committee, and deputies from both sides. We sat down and talked. There were about a hundred of us there. I put it bluntly. You know, we are already on the edge of a precipice, if we go one more step, we will fall into the abyss. And these two peoples have been living next to each other for centuries and they have to live. How can they live? Is anyone thinking about this? They agreed that a precipice really does lie ahead.

This was discussed, with that understanding. We agreed—let both sides think about it, and perhaps they will ponder for some time about how to calm Nagorno-Karabakh. They are thinking now. The situation is now, perhaps, unsettling us somewhat, but it is clear that it (?is bearable). So there is a problem.

But, as you know, the topic of Karabakh is now being used by unscrupulous people, political demagogues and adventurists and, more than that, corrupt people. They can see things changing, that restructuring is under way and reaching Armenia and Azerbaijan. The leadership is being changed and is taking up a restructuring stance. So this means that the time is coming when a blow will be struck against all these people, against all these parasitical people who hold even the people in their hands, intimidating them. They have created here, you know, black-shirts, white-shirts, groups of people with beards... both in Azerbaijan and Armenia. They are putting pressure on the deputies, putting pressure on the government, and feed people slogans about Karabakh. On the Azerbaijani side, the slogans say: We'll die before we surrender Karabakh; and on the other side: We'll die to take Karabakh. They have had no need of Karabakh for a long time, and it has never bothered them. They are waging a struggle for power, they need to preserve their power and all the closed groups and all these dirty thieves, you understand, who sit on the backs of the working class, the peasantry, and the working intelligentsia. That is what it is all about.

I have spoken in Leninakan, and today I spoke in Kirovakan, to everybody, and people support it, it's correct. And they know best that this is how it is is. This is what it is all about. They are taking advantage of this sacred feeling, pain for one's language and one's people, these elements which exist both in Azerbaijan and here, too. And on the border, they have set two peoples against each other. When you converse with people, they say plainly: Mikhail Sergeyevich! We have lived together for centuries, we have families in common.

One deputy spoke from the group of deputies standing there after the conversation at the Central Committee ended—they were from Armenia—I could see that they were upset. They were ordinary people, workers and peasants. I went up to them and said: I feel so sorry for you. You are distressed. Yes, Mikahil Sergeyevich, he says, I even want to give up my card as a deputy, and that's it. But help us to stop all this. And a peasant says:

Mikhail Sergeyevich, we have lived for centuries, after all, and we don't have any problems. It's because someone, somewhere, won't share something.

Do you see what it's all about? That's what it's all about. I think they won't evade responsibility. We have already taken this matter up, and shall bring it to its conclusion, along with the workers of both republics; order will be instituted. And the problem of Karabakh will take its proper place. The people must live on that soil where they have lived for centuries.

Well, a certain scholar argues that the roots of the Armenian nation lie in Karabakh. Another scholar, no less successfully, proves that the roots of the Azeri nation are there. And bear in mind that each is supported by facts and historical documents. What does this tell us? And I am telling this to those scholars: It tells us that these two peoples have always lived there. Everything they have is intertwined. They have common teachers and pupils, many songs, a common international family. How is it possible to behave like this to people? These are political adventurers, and they must be branded as such. People must know.

But look what they are doing now: the people have such a tragedy, and they spread rumors [podbrasyvat narodu], frightening the people by saying that the earthquake now, you see, will go on and it can lead to anything. Everywhere, I was asked: Are we really acting irresponsibly? We came, we summoned five of our scientists from the great academy: today they talked with them. What data do you have? There is no scientific data. And the workers ask me everywhere. I say: You know, there is no center, or at least I don't know of one, which could say today if there will be another earthquake or not. That is the kind of opinion that is being expressed. That is what they are like.

Or, a painful theme of women and children that they are now spreading rumors about: That they want to take our children away to Russia and not return them to Armenia, to tear them away from the people. That the Armenians will now be transferred to Siberia. Come on, now at this time, at this time, to do such things, what kind of morality do these people have, I'm asking you? People must know what kind of persons use concern for the people, for the nation, as a cover, but are actually involved with this sort of thing. These are persons thirsty for power. And they must be stopped, using all our might, both political and administrative.

Be they as it may, it is not they who will determine the destinies of this land, all the same, but the people. And I would like to tell the Armenian people, on behalf of the Central Committee, the government, on behalf of the whole Soviet people, that they should and can be assured that during this difficult period, this time of trials, we shall do everything possible to help and support them, so as to emerge from this disaster even stronger and more united.

I am leaving, but the commission headed by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov remains, Comrade Slyunkov and Comrade Yazov are staying, his three deputies are staying, and they will continue conducting this work in the same manner that we have now begun it.

Gorbachev TV Interview Published

PM1212170188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Dec 88 Second Edition pp 1, 2

[TASS report on an interview given by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to Central Television and Armenian Television correspondents prior to his departure from Yerevan: "M.S. Gorbachev Interview With Central Television and Armenian Television Correspondents"]

[Text] Before his departure from Yerevan M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, gave an interview to Central Television and Armenian Television correspondents.

Question: Mikhail Sergeyevich, what have you gathered from your trip around the disaster areas?

M.S. Gorbachev: It's a grave calamity. It's simply tragic. I have seen so many people in distress, people who have lost close friends and relatives and whole families. Everything that I have seen in these 2 days has simply shaken me.

In human terms this is difficult to bear, it is simply unbearable. Once again I want to voice on behalf of the leadership, myself, and our entire people words of most sincere and profound sympathy to the families of those who are in such distress and to the entire Armenian people. I want to say straightaway that they have already sensed that our people are taking everything very much to heart. The whole country has arisen. Everyone is ready to do everything to help.

I have a heavy heart and am simply shaken by everything that I have seen. We have just visited a small city of 20,000 inhabitants—Spitak. All of it has been destroyed. Leninakan has been virtually completely destroyed. This is all very serious. But I learned here that during that very difficult first night when the city of Leninakan was cut off, the airport was destroyed, the railroad ceased to function, and the highway was also destroyed, in that situation Yerevan—its medics, workers, construction workes, young people, and students, especially those from medical faculties—all set off there immediately to help people. Pilots landed in pitch darkness, collected people with serious injuries, brought them out, they were operated on and their lives saved. I can now see the whole country, which has responded with such profound

warmth and sincerity to this, our common misfortune, and I am proud of all our people. Thus, what a great deal resides within our peoples and what tremendous moral strenth they have!

I must say that the commission led by N.I. Ryzhkov, and including N.N. Slyunkov, D.T. Yazov, and Comrade Ryzhkov's three deputies, and including the Armenian Republic's leadership has already done a great deal of work and all the highways are now open. Equipment has started arriving; all the aid, resources, everything is here. Organization will be of crucial significance here. We must first help clear the obstructions as quickly as possible where many people are still alive. People are being freed every day. I have met some of them. That is why our first task is to rescue those who are still alive. We must also recover those who have died and give them a decent burial. That is understandable.

By 0800 hours there will now be 700 cranes here and in another day there will be 900 cranes to clear all this.

Everything has now entered the action phase. People are working day and night. The power supply is being restored and water is being supplied to heat the remaining houses. Insulated tents have been brought in for 300,000 of the population in order to provide people with accommodation for the time being. Of course, we must show particular concern for women and children. That is why tens of thousands of places in boarding houses and sanatoria have now been vacated and are awaiting them in Armenia, Georgia, Stavropol Kray, and Kuban. They have now begun to travel from Leninakan and Spitak. They are traveling in classes, accompanied by teachers and mothers. Help must be given where necessary to rescue children.

Question: I think, Mikhail Sergeyevich, that this broad river of aid should somehow be divided into little streams to reach everyone.

M.S. Gorbachev: Yes. You're right, we discussed this question yesterday specially. So much has arrived here, many are sending essential consignments, medicines, food, and warm clothing without asking—it is all coming in on such a scale that we cannot even receive it all now. We have agreed that the headquarters is to have special communications with the republics so that they can carry out preliminary coordination work. There's food here now, bread is being baked, and a water supply ensured. And tents. Medical aid is still coming in.

I must say that the medics headed by Minister Chazov have perhaps acted the most skillfully. Things are becoming more and more organized. These rayons have been closed because there are a great many people there; for understandable reasons. Friends and relatives have traveled here and this has impeded the work. Everything has now been taken in hand. I think that there is more order now and there will be more rapid results. Of course, people were interested in the future fate of the cities. This question has been discussed and examined. Of course, we must restore these cities. I have already said this on behalf of the country's leadership to people in all the cities so that they may know. This is their ancient territory, their roots are here, and they have lived here for generations. We can all understand that people should have an answer to this question. Incidentally, N.I Ryzhkov invited representatives from all republics here 2 days ago and they have pledged—moreover it was their proposal—to restore everything within 2 years. The cities, settlements, and the enterprises—for the latter were also destroyed. They have pledged to restore everything so that people can once again return to a normal life.

Of course, you cannot bring back the human lives that have been lost. I feel very sorry, sorry for the people. But I have found the Armenian people to be courageous in their hour of trial. All the weeping, the tears, and the demands have not cancelled out the fact that we have seen how people acted selflessly despite everything without waiting for everything to be organized as it should be and used everything at their disposal to help.

Question: We observed the following scenes in neighboring villages and cities: People baked bread, put it in the trunks of their automobiles, brought it along, opened the trunks, and distributed the bread.

M.S. Gorbachev: That's right. I saw that too. Hot flat cakes and loaves were distributed straight from automobiles. In general we saw once again what tremendous spiritual reserves this people have.

Question: Mikhail Sergeyevich: I have never in my entire life seen a thousandth of the suffering that I have seen here in 3 days.

M.S. Gorbachev: I have never seen anything like it. To be frank it is even difficult for me to talk to you about it.

Question: Yet yesterday you could once again hear Nagorno-Karabakh slogans in Yerevan. What kind of blindness is this? One does indeed recall the biblical truism that says that if the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the abyss. There is nothing good in these slogans. Just more unhappiness.

M.S. Gorbachev: I will be honest with you. Yesterday one fact shook me. We were coming back last night from Leninakan to the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee in order to examine the practical issues of how to step up the scale of the work to rescue people and provide them with amenities and the work to resolve practical questions and eliminate this calamity.

Armenian inhabitants were standing on the streets. I stopped at one place. I had a good conversation. People are all very alarmed. They all took this hard. I told them that I was just shaken by what I had seen and by the misfortune that has befallen people. Suddenly right here

in Yerevan I was asked the question: What kind of relations are you going to have with the informal organizations and how will you organize dialogue with them? The topic of Karabakh once again. You know, I was possibly sharp-tongued but I said everything that was on my mind. First I said—stop. See what misfortune has befallen both the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians. Look where they've been pushed, see the point they've reached and the blood that has been shed. It's such a misfortune and the whole country and the whole world are suffering owing to what has happened in Armenia and what has befallen the Armenian people. Yet a man in the Armenian capital asked me about how we are going to organize dialogue with informal organizations. How devoid of morals that man must be.

I have been talking frankly about this today in Kirovakan with the working people—they agreed with this and said: Mikhail Sergeyevich, all this must be stopped.

I believe that the problem of Karabakh does exist as such. It does have real roots and has been exacerbated because at some stage the former Azerbaijani leadership treated the population there wrongly, not in the spirit of our Leninist traditions, and sometimes simply in an inhuman way. This has hurt people. And that is what we condemn. It is precisely for this reason that we have come to their aid and adopted a resolution to help them in their socioeconomic development—we have allocated R500 million for this small oblast to provide it with all facilities, remove all the people's problems, and create conditions in which they can live; to solve cultural problems and the problems of developing the native language and teaching and to establish normal ties with Armenia. This is all natural, all understandable, and all as it should be. This is how we must act and these are the decisions we must take. But a great many problems have built up, in addition to all this. Recently, after the USSR Supreme Soviet session, I invited members of the Central Committee and deputies from both sides together with comrades from the leadership.

We sat down and had a discussion. There were about 100 of us there. I said frankly: You know, we have reached the edge of the abyss. If we move any further—even just one step—we will be over the edge. These people live together side by side—two peoples who have lived together for centuries and must live together now. How can they live together in the future—has anyone thought about this? They agreed that, one step further, and we would indeed be over the edge. The discussion continued in this understanding. We agreed that both sides must give some thought as to how to calm Nagorno-Karabakh for a while. But now the situation is unsettling us somewhat.

So, the problem does exist. But, you know, the subject of Karabakh is now being exploited by unscrupulous people, political demagogues, adventurists, and, what is more, corrupt people. After all, they can see for themselves: Restructuring is in progress and has reached Armenia and Azerbaijan, the leadership is changing and taking a restructuring stance. This means that it will be striking a blow against all these corrupt people. Against all these parasites who have the people in the palm of their hand and intimidate them. They have created here, you know, black-shirts, white-shirts, and groups of people with beards—in Azerbaijan and Armenia too. They put pressure on deputies and put pressure on the government.

They feed people slogans about Karabakh. On the Azerbaijani side, the slogans say—we will die before we relinquish Karabakh—and here they say—we are prepared to die for Karabakh. They have had no need of Karabakh for a long time and it has never been a source of concern to them. They are waging a struggle for power—they must retain power. All those members of cliques and robber bands who sit on the backs of the working class, the peasantry, and the working intelligentsia. That is what it is all about.

I have talked about this to everyone in Leninakan and Kirovakan. And people have backed me up in this, said I am right. And they know better than anyone else that this is how it is. This is what it is all about. Elements like this in Azerbaijan and here are exploiting the sacred feeling of pain for one's language and one's people. And on the border they have set the two peoples against one another. When you talk to them, people frankly say: Mikhail Sergeyevich, we have been living here together for centuries and have families in common.

After that conversation in the Central Committee, I approached a group of deputies—from Armenia, incidentally. I could see that they were upset—ordinary people, workers, peasants. I went up to them and said, I feel very sorry for you—you are living such an ordeal. Yes, Mikhail Sergeyevich, they said, we have even reached the point where we want to give up our cards as deputies. But help us to put a stop to all this. One peasant said: Mikhail Sergeyevich, we have lived together for centuries without any problems, but now some people somewhere do not want to share something. You understand what is going on? That is what it is all about.

I do not think they will give up without an answer—we are now tackling the problem, will see it through to the end, and order will be built with the working people of both republics. The Karabakh problem will take its proper place. People must live together on this earth, where they have lived together for centuries. One scholar contends that the Armenian nation has its roots in Karabakh while another scholar argues, no less successfully, that the Azeri nation has its roots there. You must remember that each is supported by facts and historical documents. What does this say? Well, I say to these scholars that it shows that these two peoples have always lived here, that everything they have is intertwined, and

that they have teachers and students in common. They have a great many songs in common, as well as common, international families. How can you treat people like this?

They are political adventurists—they must be branded as such, so that people know. Look what they are doing now. The people have suffered such a disaster and they are frightening them by saying that the earthquake will come back, that it could lead to goodness knows what, and that we are acting irresponsibly. We summoned five scientists from the USSR Academy of Sciences here. We asked them: Do you have this kind of information? There is no scientific data. But workers are questioning me wherever I go. I tell them, you know, that there is no center—at least as far as I am aware—that could predict today whether there is going to be an earthquake or not. That is the kind of opinion that is being expressed. Or, a painful subject—women and children. They are now spreading the rumor that people want to take their children away to Russia and not return them to Armenia but tear them away from their own people, and that Armenians will now be resettled in Siberia. Really, to do such things at a time like this! What kind of morality do these people have, I ask you? People must realize what kind of person it is that hides behind concern for the people and the nation but does this kind of thing instead. They are people thirsting for power. And they must be stopped by using all our strength—political and administrative.

Anyway, forget about them—because it is not they who will decide the fate of this land but the people, and I want to assure the Armenian people on behalf of the Central Committee, the Government, and all Soviet people that they can and must count on assistance and support at this time of trial and hour of ordeal. We will do everything possible to ensure that we emerge even stronger and more united than before from this tragedy. I am going, but the commission led by N.I. Ryzhkov will remain, as will Comrade Slyunkov, Comrade Yazov, and three deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers and they will continue conducting this work in the way we have begun it.

Leaves Yerevan For Moscow

LD1112164488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Today Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has left Yerevan for Moscow.

At the airport he was seen off by Comrades Ryzhkov, Slyunkov, Yazov; Comrade Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee; Comrade Voskanyan, chairman of the republican supreme soviet presidium; Comrade Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Minister; and other comrades.

Before he took off Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev met members of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, members of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet and members of the republican council of ministers presidium.

Arrives in Moscow

LD1112172488 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, returned to Moscow from Yerevan tonight.

Government Issues Official Communique on Quake

PM1012175388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1

[Official communique on the earthquake in Armenia: "From the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers: On the Earthquake in the Armenian SSR"]

[Text] As has already been reported, an earthquake with very tragic consequences occurred in a number of areas in Armenia.

According to the Yerevan seismic station, the tremors measured more than force 10 in the epicenter, which was in the area of the city of Leninakan. It was the strongest quake in Transcaucasia on record.

The natural calamity struck a territory with a population of over 700,000. Thousands were killed, tens of thousands injured, and hundreds of thousands left homeless.

The severest blow was dealt to the cities of Leninakan, Spitak, Kirovakan, and Stepanavan. In Leninakan, more than 80 percent of all apartment houses and service and production facilities were destroyed, including 120 buildings that were completely ruined. All the 11,000 privately owned houses were damaged and partially destroyed. A textile mill, a magnetic product works, a bicycle factory, and other industrial projects were put out of operation.

The city of Spitak and most villages in Spitak District were almost completely demolished. Hundreds of high-rise apartment buildings, privately owned cottages, and supply lines and facilities were destroyed in Kirovakan, Stepanavan, Akhuryanskiy District, and other localities.

Motor roads and railways were damaged and power supply, telephone communications, and road and communal facilities put out of operation everywhere.

A Politburo commission led by Nikolay Ryzhkov, a member of the party Central Committee Politburo and head of government, is at work in the disaster area,

taking the full range of urgent rescue and rehabilitation measures together with Armenia's party and soviet agencies and coordinating relief aid from all over the country.

Priority is being given to efforts to save people, give them medical assistance, and provide them with lodging, food, and warm clothing. The victims are also being given material aid. Military units from the Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, and the civil defense service are actively involved in efforts dealing with the earthquake's effects.

The whole country at this hour of trial shares the grief that has befallen Armenia. Numerous letters and telegrams from working people and mass organizations are expressing deep condolences to the Armenian people.

In different constituent republics, krays, and oblasts, in Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities, and at many factories decisions have been made to give fraternal Armenia all-around aid.

Heavy-duty modern machines, helicopters, truck-mounted cranes, bulldozers, prefabricated homes, and tents are being sent to the disaster area.

Hundreds of physicians and other medical personnel as well as large consignments of medicines and donor blood have arrived there from different cities.

Working people in Azerbaijan and Georgia were among the first to respond to the neighbors' tragedy. They dispatched building, installation, and medical workers, foodstuffs, large amounts of oil products, and mobile gas-filling stations to Armenia and made offers of sanatoriums and rest homes for victims of the quake.

All this strikingly reflects the great friendship of the peoples of this multinational country and their readiness to give a brother's helping hand to one another at any minute.

The grief of this country is shared by people in many other countries. The governments of a number of states and international organizations have expressed condolences and offered help.

In view of the tragic effects of the earthquake in Armenia, the death of many people, it has been decided to proclaim 10 December 1988 a day of national mourning in the Soviet Union.

Rescue Efforts Result in Air Tragedies

Transport Plane Crashes

LD1112155688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] From the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers: As it was approaching the airport for Leninakan in the Armenian SSR, an Il-76 military transport plane crashed. Nine members of the crew and 70 soldiers sent to Leninakan to help in the earthquake relief effort were killed.

With a feeling of grief and sympathy, we express our deep condolences to the families of those who died, who hurried to the aid of the fraternal Armenian people and earned the eternal gratitude of the Soviet people.

Commission To Investigate Crash

LD1212092888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Many of our radio listeners are asking for more precise information about the circumstances of the catastrophe surrounding the Il-76 military transport plane as it approached the airport in the town of Leninakan. As a result of our enquiry, and in addition to information already broadcast, Colonel General of Aviation Pankin, commander in chief of the Air Forces, has reported that the plane was flying to the disaster region from an airfield outside Baku. Army engineers were on board.

The reasons for the catastrophe are being investigated by a commission that has been specially set up. There will be an additional report.

Yugoslav Plane Crashes

LD1212101888 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Dec (TANJUG)—A Yugoslav military transport plane has suffered a catastrophe in which all its crew members died. The catastrophe occurred near Yerevan airport in the Soviet republic of Armenia (?while the) plane was carrying Yugoslav aid in the form of medicines and medical and other equipment to the area hit by an earthquake.

The catastrophe occurred at 0223 Moscow time, in other words at 0023 hours Yugoslav time. The An-12 plane was in the air space of Yerevan airport and crashed to the ground about 15 km from the airport, between the airport and the town of Oktemberyan. There are no survivors.

It is presumed that seven crew members were in the plane. The responsible Soviet authorities are at the scene of the catastrophe.

At the moment the following can be stated:

The plane initially struck the ground in front of a bridge, and in effect fell to pieces. Only an investigation will be able to establish what caused the plane to fall.

The plane took off from Skopje on 11 December. It was held up overnight at the airport in Ankara, and then obtained permission to fly to Yerevan, which is where the catastrophe occurred. [passage omitted]

TASS Reports Plane Crash

LD1212124288 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Valentin Nikiforov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, today reported that a Yugoslav plane ferrying relief aid for the quake-striken population crashed this night as it was approaching Yerevan. Seven people died in the crash.

At a briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Center, Nikoforov expressed profound condolences to the bereaved families.

Politburo Commission Considers Rescue Efforts

Ryzhkov Chairs Session

PM1212103588 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 p 1

[Dispatch by N. Varsegov, G. Ivanov-Smolenskiy, and V. Umnov under general heading "We Will Cope With the Disaster Through Joint Efforts. On the Spot Reports by Our Special Correspondents"]

[Excerpt] Armenian SSR—[Passage omitted] A crowd of people stood outside the Armenian Komsomol Central Committee building. People were reading the list of names of injured patients admitted to Yerevan's hospitals. Someone heard a familiar name and ran to his car.... The information service group is located on the first floor.

"On the first day we sent five buses with medical students to the stricken areas," we were told by G. Israyelyan, first secretary of the Yerevan Komsomol Gorkom and deputy chief of the Armenian Komsomol Central Committee operational staff. "All night long people were donating blood. Two youth hostels were vacated to accommodate incoming children."

The narrative was interrupted by a telephone call:

"A construction detachment is flying out of Novosibirsk today. Can you please accept their services."

"Thank you, but cancel their trip. We have enough resources for the time being."

We saw this for ourselves on several occasions. People, medicines, blood supplies—everything in abundance. But they cannot always be promptly delivered to the places where they are needed. If the roads are blocked, military helicopters come to the rescue.

Assistance is on its way. But not always in an organized fashion, alas. We only just returned from an operational conference by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission which was chaired by N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

It was noted at the conference that so far not everything is being properly done. The questions of delivering equipment to Armenia are especially acute due to lack of organization in aviation. Traffic jams still block the roads approaching the ruined cities. In order to fully eliminate the confusion, it is necessary to radically improve planning, traffic control communications, executive discipline, and the coordination of activities of all the separate elements.

USSR Minister of Health Ye.I. Chazov said that 5,582 injured patients have been hospitalized in 16 hours, and over 500 physicians from the country's best clinics and institutes are working around the clock in hospitals and polyclinics. The number of incoming injured patients is declining day by day. But the injuries are increasingly serious. Some 30,000 persons have responded to the request for blood donations—there are abundant blood supplies today. Red Cross teams have flown in from France and Switzerland.

"This is the first time such work has been done by any of us," N.I. Ryzhkov said in summing up the conference results. "I am convinced that the situation can and must be taken in hand. Today we must display the utmost demandingness and responsibility."

Commission Sees Faster Pace

LD0912201288 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The special commission of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's Politburo, which is led by head of Government Nikolay Ryzhkov, held an exacting review this morning of the fulfilment of tasks set to rescue workers for the past night, summing up the results of the work done during that time and defining further priorities.

All this was done with the participation of the heads of central ministries and agencies, the National Council of Trade Unions and the leadership of Armenia.

It was stressed once again that the main task remains to clear debris as soon as possible. There still may be survivors trapped underneath.

Soviet Army troops, for example, rescued 200 people from under the rubble of an industrial facility last night.

Every minute counts when it comes to saving the living and completely retrieving the bodies of the dead.

Soviet Army troops and volunteers from among local residents and young people arriving from Yerevan and other cities and constituent republics work on this overriding task with utter dedication, pausing neither for sleep nor rest and demonstrating real examples of humane heroism.

It is only after clearing the debris and rescuing those who might still be alive and after burying the dead that it will be possible to start energetic evacuation of people from affected cities and villages as well as plan-based work to restore and repair buildings and supply lines.

Rescue teams are being formed for round-the-clock work. A total of 450 mine rescue personnel have arrived. Aid from abroad is gaining in scope, 60 French mining specialists have been brought to affected areas.

At least 500 truck-mounted cranes will be used by December 11 to clear debris.

At the same time sharp criticism was levelled during the commission's meeting at state agencies in Armenia for being too slow to provide temporary shelters for victims of the quake and set up food distribution points and shops. It was demanded that the situation be changed radically in the course of the day.

A conference was then held with the deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers of constituent republics in charge of construction. The noble, humane desire of the peoples of all the fraternal republics to give all-round aid to Armenia is being backed up with a real program.

Each republic will take part in dealing with the effects of the natural calamity in the cities of Leninakan, Kirovakan and Spitak, in repair and rehabilitation efforts and in new building and will establish its own construction facilities there.

Their task was set to get central ministries and agencies that have enterprises and organizations in affected territories more closely involved in recovery operations.

Within the next two years the constituent republics will build a combined five million square meters of housing as well as schools, kindergartens, hospitals and other service and cultural facilities in the areas of distress.

Later on Friday the deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers of constituent republics left for the areas of future building.

Proceeding from the real situation, the Politburo commission determined among priority measures restoration of the damaged stretches of highways and railways, effective coordination of the functioning of transport, flawless operation of aviation for the delivery of building equipment, food, necessities and medicines. Teams arriving in the disaster area are to be accommodated, and children are to evacuated from the area.

Headquarters are to be set up in Spitak, Leninakan and Kirovakan to coordinate the rescue effort. The headquarters will include commanders of Army units stationed in these cities, officials supervising the work of transport, trade, the communal economy. Secretaries of the Central Committee of Armenia's Communist Party have been instructed to head these headquarters.

Late in the evening the Politburo commission summed up the results of the rescue and rehabilitation effort for December 9. It was noted that the pace and scope of the work increases. Railway traffic toward the cities of Leninakan and Spitak was, specifically, resumed. The Leninakan station received the first trainloads of cargoes. Highway bridges, tunnels are being rebuilt. The railway bed is cleared of boulders, landslides are checked. Traffic on roads leading to Spitak, Leninakan is put to order to give a green light to automobile columns with equipment, food and other priority cargoes.

Two more regiments of engineering troops and a team of railway workers arrived in the disaster area. Their personnel joined immediately in the rehabilitation effort. Five regiments are to arrive in the days ahead. Army units set up stations to provide hot meals for the population. The water mains, power and telephone services are being restored.

The Politburo commission is to visit the disaster area again to check how the tasks set and the rescue and rehabilitation work are being implemented.

Being aware of the fraternal assistance of the whole country, millions of Soviet people, the working people of the republic are determined to overcome the disaster by common effort.

Ryzhkov Interviewed on Work

LD1012011488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Interview with Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by unidentified correspondent on 9 December; place not given; first paragraph is introduction—recorded]

[Text] As we have reported, a CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission headed by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is working in the Armenian regions hit by an earthquake. Listen to an interview given by Comrade Ryzhkov on the evening of 9 December to our special correspondent.

[Correspondent] Nikolay Ivanovich, on the basis of your assessment, what is the degree of destruction in the disaster regions?

[Ryzhkov] The degree of destruction in these regions is very great. Leninakan was hardest hit. In the city, 120 nine-story apartment buildings were destroyed, completely destroyed. Industrial buildings were destroyed as well as social installations, shops, hospitals, and nurseries. The small town of Spitak was virtually completely destroyed. Evidently there is nothing left for us to restore there, and the Politburo commission is examining this

matter and will adopt a decision to erect completely new buildings on the site. Three days have passed since the earthquake began. It is now the 4th day. The Politburo commission has been workingfor 2 days directly in the earthquake zone, the disaster zone, and at the headquarters in Yerevan.

Consequently, all possible measures are being taken to first conduct the necessary rescue work and then to determine priorities for building new housing, restoring industrial buildings, and other works. So now all the activity of all the bodies located here is concentrated specifically on rescuing people. Work is under way; major work and very many people are involved—several thousand people from Yerevan are working. Now detachments from other republics are arriving. They have come from Georgia, and teams from other regions are arriving. Much is being done by the Soviet Army, which is transferring units here. Early today two engineering regiments will begin to clear the rubble.

That is the main task now: to clear the debris and do all that is possible to save those who are still alive. Of course it is necessary to find all those who have perished. That is the priority task today, and everything now has practically been concentrated on it. The work is most difficult. It requires caution and is not without danger. But all possible measures are being taken.

All the equipment available for this kind of work in the USSR is being mobilized. We are moving part of it tonight by military transport aircraft and loading the rest onto trains in other towns, so it will be on its way tomorrow morning. In a day or two we can send more of the necessary equipment, which will enable us to carry out this most complicated and essential (?task).

People are working very well, and they are giving the necessary help. The injured are being sent to hospitals. Many doctors have arrived from Moscow. A great amount of work is being done by the medical people of Armenia. Military doctors have arrived from Georgia and have done themselves proud. We consider that they are completely fulfilling their tasks.

[Correspondent] Nikolay Ivanovich, can you say that everything is being done precisely and without interruption to assist the victims?

[Ryzhkov] If one takes a critical look at things, then there are shortcomings in the work, there are omissions in the work and, therefore, it is impossible to say that everything is being done very accurately. Unfortunately, there are a lot of omissions and shortcomings in the work. But I have to note that unlike in ordinary life, where instructions are necessary and papers have to be signed, here oral instructions are given; nothing is formalized by promulgations or protocols of any kind, everything is done cleanly, as it were, by simple instructions, and people have to account for what they have done. The demands placed on people are quite severe. We do not let slip a single case if there are hold-ups anywhere. In my view the level of exactingness is quite high, but under the conditions in which we find ourselves here it could not be otherwise.

[Correspondent] Nikolay Ivanovich, what is the first priority now? What help must the fraternal republics and the whole country offer the Armenia victims?

[Ryzhkov] I said on television that without the involvement of all the republics Armenia will not cope with this disaster. It is the misfortune not just of the Armenian people but of our whole union. It is our common grief and, of course, we have to bring in all the republics. Yesterday all deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers of the union republics who are in charge of construction issues flew in, and they were present this morning at the conference. They were given the task of starting the building work as soon as the sites are cleared. A lot of building needs to be done here, especially housing and facilities in the social and cultural sphere and industrial enterprises, too. It is necessary, therefore, for all republics to join in.

Every republic will be given a specific task. They will have to come here with their equipment, with their own supplies to make life and work easier. No one here can be relied on to come and help. A collective must come from its republic and must be able to live independently. We have to give all the republics their due. Their attitude to all of this is one of great understanding. Measures are now being worked out to form building detachments in the near future. In our view they will have to work here for a minimum of 2 years to eliminate the consequences of the misfortune. Essentially, we have to rebuild one town completely and half of another town.

As far as production works are concerned—works, workshops, those that have been destroyed; there is some very great damage—we have today decided that every union ministry that has an enterprise here should hold an inspection. It will need to assess the damage and use its own resources both to clear and to build. That is, all ministries will deal with their own enterprises. This will enable the republics to concentrate on the social sphere, on housing, kindergartens, hospitals—hospitals have to be built—and so on. The ministries, in the main, will deal with industrial facilities.

I must say that there is an exceptionally good understanding, an enormous number of telegrams are arriving from people, from the republics. You know, you don't have to ask twice. Everything is done the first time. We are simply grateful to the entire country, to all the people, to all our union republics, for such understanding.

You know, it is probably only in extreme conditions like this that we begin to understand what is meant by the Soviet family. Sometimes we talk about family, about

friendship, in that way. That is already a kind of habit. But when disaster strikes like this, only in this kind of disaster can one really see how interdependent we are.

[Correspondent] The folk proverb says: A friend in need is a friend indeed. And now peoples are hastening to help Armenia.

[Ryzhkov] Yes, that is folk wisdom indeed. It has been tried and tested over the centuries. We are well aware of it at the moment. A great many things are coming in, medicines and food. Sometimes an aircraft arrives—we do not know where it has come from, no one has requested it—an aircraft arrives carrying food, let's say. Although that makes our work disorganized, of course, it does show the kind of sincere, profound feelings people have. We are grateful, simply grateful, to everyone for such understanding. You know, human morality has taken on a kind of second wind among our people. I remember that after the accident at Chernobyl it was exactly the same. But this time it has perhaps gone even deeper. Foreign nations are playing a big part now. The French were the first to appear. They sent special rescue detachments who know how to find people in the ruins. They have arrived and are in Leninakan. Other countries are sending their teams and equipment to help us. They are also on their way. We are not refusing any aid, of any sort, from foreign nations or individuals. We are very grateful to them. We are not refusing any aid, only expressing our gratitude for it.

In my opinion, we must first make use of the aid being rendered to us by other nations. This is, of course, for people. Primarily it is medical equipment, which we need—and not just today—to save people. Unfortunately, many people were seriously injured. But we also have to think now about the hospitals that need to be built, and about maternity homes, because they have all been destroyed. But we will build. Of course, the aid to be provided by foreign nations will go totally on equipment for hospitals and pediatric polyclinics, and so on. We are very grateful for this aid, and feel that this grief has, in some measure, stirred the whole world.

Ryzhkov, Yazov on Relief

LD0912172288 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and the government are taking every possible measure to give moral, economic and financial aid and support to the Armenian people, the chairman of the Politburo's commission that has been set up to coordinate efforts to deal with the effects of the earthquake in Armenia told newsmen.

Head of government Nikolay Ryzhkov added: "Our main task now is fast to clear rubble in devastated cities and villages, restore water, heat and gas supplies to them and provide people with food and clothes."

The supreme patriarch and catholicos of all Armenians, Vazgen the first, spoke on republican radio to urge the Armenian people to show courage and calm.

"The Armenian people have the backing of the Soviet Government and all Soviet people who will help us to heal our wounds and build even more beautiful cities and villages," he said.

The church leader then added: "I also appealed to our compatriots abroad. They share the tragedy with us and I am sure that the Armenian diaspora will also give us moral and other necessary aid." Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov said that military units, including special engineer units, machines, communications, tents, food and clothes are being moved to affected areas.

Sapper units, complete with field kitchens, motor vehicles and machinery, were the first to arrive and get down to work.

Containers with medicines, necessaries of life, food and building materials were shipped to Armenia from Azerbaijan, Georgia and the northern Caucasus by road and rail throughout the day.

Forty heavy-lift jets took off from Minsk, Belorussia, with machines needed to remove debris in Leninakan.

Gravely injured people from Armenia began arriving at Leningrad clinics started from this morning. The surgery departments of the city's hospitals have prepared accommodation for 1,300 such patients, both adults and children, who are being flown in by Aeroflot. The airlift from Transcaucasia was established despite adverse weather conditions.

Rumors of 'Possible New Earthquake' Dismissed

NC1212094888 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Attention, dear radio listeners. Rumors have been spread in the city alleging that the radio and television have reported (?forecasts) by seismological centers on a possible new earthquake in the next few hours. The (?editorial) staff of the State Committee for Radio and Television Broadcasting informs you that no such information has been received or reported, neither on radio nor on television. [This announcement is repeated, and then carried twice again at 0940 GMT]

Nuclear Plant Continues Operating Normally

LD0912160288 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The nuclear power station in Armenia was not damaged during the earthquake and is functioning normally, according to Victor Kondratyev, chief expert at the USSR Ministry for Nuclear Industry.

The plant is situated in the western part of Ararat Valley, thirty-five kilometres from Yerevan. The total power of the plant's two units is 815 megawatts.

The plant which is designed to withstand quakes up to nine points on the twelve point scale was commissioned in the late seventies.

A specially designed safety system comes into operation during quakes that measure three points or more and automatically shuts the reactors down when the tremors reach six points.

Tremors registered in the area measured 5.5 points. The plant personnel checked all the systems after the quake was over and found that they were undamaged and functioning normally.

The reactors were not shut down and continue operating in a normal operational mode.

The power output, however, had to be reduced by fifty megawatts because some power users switched off.

The plant continues to play an important role in Armenia's power supply.

Reportage on Armenia in Quake's Aftermath

Death Toll Set at 40-45,000

LD1012112488 Moscow TASS in English 1053 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—According to preliminary information, 40,000-45,000 people died as a result of the earthquake in Armenia, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Nikiforov told a news conference here today. Some 12,000 people were injured and more than half a million left homeless.

The earthquake victims received aid on a large scale, he continued. Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, left for Armenia today to take measures on the spot. More than 40 states in Europe, Latin America, the Middle and Far East, the United States and all socialist countries offered aid.

The deputy minister said that five special planes carrying drugs and special teams arrived in Yerevan on Thursday: two each from France and Italy and one from Switzerland. As of today 13 flights are scheduled to arrive in Armenia from the United States, India, Yugoslavia and Britain and another 50 after stopping in Moscow for refuelling. Aid from foreign specialists yielded its first results. For example, French teams working jointly with Soviet people already saved 60 people.

Valentin Nikiforov expressed heartfelt gratitude both for the assistance and for condolences and the feelings of sympathy. "We are grateful for any kind of aid and cannot refuse it," he said. "But I would like to stress the main moments which are connected with this aid. We urgently need medical equipment and equipment for restoring damaged hospitals, out-patient clinics, day-care centres, drugs, disposable syringes and other first-aid instruments."

At the same time, he noted, there is no need for medical staff, special vehicles, tents and warm clothes—all this has been brought in from all parts of the Soviet Union.

"We regard everything that is taking place in connection with the calamity which hit us as an example proving that people can and should live in peace, in the spirit of mutual assistance and in the spirit of solidarity on earth," the deputy minister said.

Yuriy Chaplygin, deputy head of the Information Department of the USSR Council of Ministers, said that 1,500 people had been saved as of today. Nearly 7,000 people were hospitalized. A decision was taken not to restore the city of Spitak but to build it anew. According to preliminary estimates, two years will be needed to restore all that has been damaged.

Igor Nersesov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and head of the Seismology Department of the Institute of Physics of the Earth, said that a group of specialists had flown to the area of the earthquake to monitor seismic activity and warn the population about the possible new strong tremors in the nearest future. He said that the area which was in the epicenter of the earthquake is located in the zone of high seismic activity. In 1046 the ancient Armenia capital Ani, situated near Leninakan, was completely destroyed by an earthquake. An earthquake measuring 8 happened approximately in the same place in 1926.

5,000 Victims Hospitalized

LD0912224988 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Health Minister Yevgeniy Chazov, who is staying in the quake-striken area, says more than 5,000 people have already been hospitalized. The timely measures made it possible to satisfy the most urgent need in medicines and qualified medical assistance.

Relief to the victims is being offered by local doctors, army surgeons, and visiting teams of doctors from all over the country.

The minister alone brought nearly 80 qualified specialists with him. [passage omitted]

Republic's Leaders Consider Tasks

PM0912204188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition p 6

[Report by special correspondents A. Sarkisyan and V. Khatuntsev: "Rescue and Hope. PRAVDA Special Correspondents Report From Armenia"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today the disaster calls, above all, for the rescue of the living who are waiting in their ferroconcrete dungeons and who believe in deliverance from pain and loneliness. We know from our experience of combating the consequences of other terrible earthquakes—in Ashkhabad and Tashkent—how long and courageously those who were buried alive hung on, waiting for the rescuing hand of a serviceman, neighbor, crane operator, or medical orderly. It is now necessary to rescue, to remove the piles of rubble layer by layer with whatever comes to hand, and give tongue to hope. No one must be doomed. What is more, no one must wait in vain.

It was no coincidence that at the conference with the republic's leaders, ministers, and generals N.I. Ryzhkov twice used the word humanity right at the start of the discussion. It is for man's sake that all strata of the country's economy are being set in motion, engineer regiments of the Soviet Army are being transferred promptly, reserve resource accumulations—for a rainy day—are being opened up, and everything both nearby and thousands of kilometers away is being brought in.

The obstacles are such that it will be impossible to cope in just a few days without mobilizing equipment and high-class specialists. Yu. Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Gosstroy, spent a night without sleep, communicating alternately with the leadership of republics, oblasts, and ministries. It was necessary in a matter of hours to find and move to the area of devastation 500 cranes with relief crews, gas cutters, and other essential equipment. By morning the picture of sideways transference of equipment had acquired specific outlines calculated according to schedules. Georgia, for example, has given up essentially its entire crane pool, since the machines will be able to get there under their own steam, and they are traveling in convoys along mountain roads. But what about the remaining equipment from distant regions? Storm the Caucasus range and arrive by the new year, if it does so at all? The CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission has decided to use transport aircraft. Il-76's are delivering everything necessary. An Il-76 which landed today was chartered by the V.I. Lenin Children's Fund. [passage omitted]

There has never been such a concentration of persons vested with power in Yerevan hotels as there is these days. Deputy chairmen of union republic councils of ministers in charge of construction have also arrived. Life after such a terrible disaster means construction. And the whole country will erect new districts of Leninakan and a new Spitak.

Some 5 million square meters of living space has to be constructed, including 1 million square meters in rural localities. The task of commissioning most schools and kindergartens has already been set for next year. After overflying their future construction sites in helicopters, the leaders of union republic construction complexes have calculated details of future construction by construction and repair trains. [passage omitted]

Information on Missing Persons

NC1012124788 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1130 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Attention: The Armenian Komsomol Central Comittee has announced the establishment of a center to provide information on the whereabouts of missing victims of the quake. The Komsomol Central Committee appeals to al establishments, institutions, public organizations, [word indistinct] citizens, relatives of victims, and all those who are sheltering earthquake survivors (?in their homes), [word indistinct], and boarding houses, to convey any information on them to the [name indistinct] Central Committee daily. Telephone numbers are as follows: 826661, 888011, and 888012. The address is: Yerevan, Baghramyan (?street) [words indistinct] (?301-302).

Armenian Nationalists Arrested

LD1112102388 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 11 Dec 88 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Moscow correspondent Jan Smiley]

[Text] The Soviet authorities last night gave a dramatic political twist to Armenia's saga of death and destruction by arresting half the Karabakh Committee, the authentic voice of Armenian nationalism which is heeded by the vast majority of Armenians.

A member of the committee still at large, Mr Ambartsum Galstyan, telephoned THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH last night with a passionate plea for the release of five members of the 11-man committee arrested last night, on the very day Mr Gorbachev flew to the scene of the disaster which was devastated the city of Leninakan.

"He came like a thief in the night, everything was secret, they hid everything, they did not even say when or where he arrived," said Mr Galstyan, expressing rising Armenian enmity towards the Kremlin.

If the five were not freed within three days, said Mr Galstyan, "appropriate measures will be taken," but he did not say what they would be.

With ecology a key part of the nationalist appeal, the Karabakh Committee had again called for the Armenian nuclear power plant near Yerevan, apparently unscathed, to be closed down for good.

Mr Galstyan's threat came as a growing storm of protest looked set to widen the rift between Moscow and its troubled republic.

In both Moscow and Armenia critics asked why warnings had not been heeded and buildings were not built strong enough to withstand tremors.

Feelings ran high, with some nationalists virtually implying that the Kremlin was caught in a conspiracy of nature against the Armenians.

Rescue workers from the Soviet Union and abroad were meanwhile feverishly continuing to try to save thousands trapped under rubble. Estimates of the dead are hovering around the 50,000 mark, though nobody seems to know for sure.

Seriously-injured people have been flown to Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev for treatment. Some orphaned children have been found homes with families in Moscow.

Early indicators suggest that the antagonism between Armenia and Azerbaijan and—perhaps even more important—between Armenia and Moscow, may well worsen because of the tragedy.

Mr Gorbachev flew to the site of the cataclysm to call for unity across the Soviet Union and to show the Armenians that in time of trouble, as when the Turks were massacring Armenians in 1915, it is the Russians who can guarantee Armenia's very existence.

Armenian nationalists and several prominent newspapers and public figures in Moscow are already posing that most traditional of Russian questions: Who is guilty?

The Communist Youth League paper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA asked bluntly: "Where were the seismologists, the architects and the construction workers who designed and built the houses that fell apart like matchboxes?"

One of Moscow's leading seismologists, Gennadiy Sobolyev, admitted that the Soviet Union did not even produce its own forecasting equipment, and that warnings given to Armenia and Georgia had not been heeded.

The two-way flight of Armenian and Azerbaijani refugees from the civil violence, which broke out three weeks before the earthquake, appears to be continuing, with some Armenian houses in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, reportedly burned down by the mob, exulting in the "holy punishment" inflicted on their enemies.

Mention in the Soviet press of help from abroad, including America, has been fairly scant, buried under reams of descriptions of so-far unspecified brotherly assistance and sympathy from within the USSR.

The usual shortages, even in normal times, of basic medicine, food and building materials are likely to be even worse in a new industrial city of 290,000, such as Leninakan, further inciting the anger of Armenians and their desire for some kind of independence. A deputy foreign minister, Mr Valentin Nikiforov, yesterday admitted: "We urgently need medical equipment."

Mr Gorbachev will need all his political skill to prevent the disaster from worsening the appalling political problems south of the Caucasus that were already plaguing him.

Rail Network Damage Described

LD1012221288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The whole country is giving assistance to the Armenian victims. Military officers, doctors, students and railway workers have arrived in the disaster area. Here is an interview which Vladimir Nikolayevich Ginko, first deputy minister of railways, gave to Yuriy Korotkov and Karyun Khumaryan, our correspondents in Yerevan.

[Begin Ginko recording] First, I would say that the railways themselves also suffered very greatly from the earthquake. Today, dozens of railway doctors are working at this noble task. Despite the destruction of the line from Leninakan to Kirovakan, by using the Baku-Yerevan line up to today we have been fully meeting the requirements for traditional transportation for the republic and, of course, providing for the increase which has already occured as a result of the supplies—above all of equipment, food, and fuel—in connection with what has occurred. But we feel that at any moment the time will come when this line—which, unfortunately, has a small capacity—may reach its limit. Therefore, our second main task is the urgent restoration of the destroyed Kirovakan-Leninakan line.

Incidentally, I should note that today these key stations are open for receiving freight, and today the first electric train left from Yerevan for Leninakan carrying 400 passengers. This electric train will now run regularly. We are ready to increase significantly the number of runs.

In order for us to repair the destroyed section as quickly as possible, we are posting a large group of railway workers to help the railwaymen of the Yerevan branch. And sometime—literally tomorrow or the day after—a construction and restoration detachment will be set up

here, comprising approximately 1,000 people. For example, railway workers of the Tbilisi junction have called a subbotnik to restore the line from Tbilisi to Yerevan; and 500 railwaymen of the Tbilisi junction are going out in their spare time to work on repairing the railway line. There are many such examples.

I should mention that today I received a great many phone calls from the railways of the Far East, Siberia, the Urals, the European part of the country, the Ukraine. Comrades wanted to know the account number of the Yerevan railway branch in order to transfer funds to assist the railway workers who suffered, to their families. Workers from the North Caucasus, Donetsk, Dnepr region, and southern lines and certain other railway lines will take part in the restoration work. [end recording]

Media Behavior, Aid Noted

LD1012104388 Moscow TASS in English 1027 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—Flags are flown at half-staff over the Kremlin, state and government buildings in Moscow as the day of mourning is observed today throughout the country under the decision of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers in connection with a devastating earthquake that hit Armenia on December 7. Entertainment activities were canceled and central television and national radio changed their programmes. However, the main topic of the mass media in the past few days remained unchanged: Radio, television and the press provide regular and detailed reports about the efforts undertaken by the entire Soviet people who came to the aid of their Armenian brothers in eliminating the consequences of the earthquake and saving people's life.

Information on aid, sent to Armenia by enterprises, offices, organisations and private people, comes from all republics of the country, many cities and populated localities. Messages of condolences to the relatives and dear ones of the victims, to the entire Armenian people continue pouring in from all over the the USSR and many countries. The grief of the Armenian people, which became the national tragedy, is shared by the world community. Many states have sent financial and other assistance to the Soviet UNion. This aid continues to arrive. On this day of mourning rescue and rehabilitation operations are in full swing in Leninakan, Spitak and other Armenian towns hit by the earthquake. A fair amount of equipment, rescue specialists, builders, repair men and doctors have arrived in the republic. The rescue effort is coordinated by a commission of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee led by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who spoke over national radio on Friday giving an account of the situation. Nikolay Ryzhkov, in particular, noted coordination and the skill of all those involved in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts, pointed to the responsibility with which people performed difficult tasks. But this is only the beginning. Much is yet to be done, and efforts on a nationwide scale are needed, he stressed.

The people of Armenia appreciated the aid and support from the fraternal peoples of other Soviet republics at this time of trial. "Today our grief is shared by all peoples of the Soviet Union, the leadership of our great country," said Rachya Oganesyan, chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia. "The spirit of unity, courage and staunchness of all Soviet people is being tested now on Armenian soil which known throughout the world for the remarkable fruits of creative thought. This helps us all to overcome the grief."

The tragic consequences of the earthquake in Armenia are the main subject of reports and commentaries in the foreign mass media. They note that at this hour of trial the grief which befell Armenia is shared by the entire Soviet country which came to the assistance of the fraternal republic. The great friendship of the peoples of the Soviet multinational state is graphic reflected in this.

Reconstruction in Armenia Planned

LD1012161088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The ruins still smolder in the streets of Leninakan, Spitak, and a number of other cities and settlements in the disaster zone; bonfires still blaze near the families which are without shelter and trying to warm themselves; but the builders, architects, and scientists are already tackling the question of what the population centers, which are still suffering from serious wounds, are to look like in the near future. Simultaneously with clearing obstructions, machinery has been sent to Armenia literally from all parts of the country. At the same time questions are being tackled regarding the development of general plans for restoring the stricken cities.

Taking into account the lessons of the natural disaster, the government commission has decided to put up buildings not higher than five stories. But these buildings must be more beautiful and more comfortable than before.

Many buildings of slab construction which were put up before failed to withstand the shattering underground blow.

Situation in Spitak Described

LD1012220488 Moscow TASS in English 2157 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Spitak December 11 TASS—By TASS special correspondents Vladimir Yegorov and Vladimir Shishlin:

Spitak in the north of Armenia (translated from the Armenian it means "white") has really turned gray from grief. A disastrous earthquake made it a heap of ruins in 30 seconds on Wednesday. Thousands of residents lost their lives.

From the window of a helicopter, approaching the place of the catastrophe, one can see the frames of wrecked buildings, warped structures, swelled up concrete slabs, and next—tents with the red cross emblem. But one learns of real dimensions of the misfortune in streets of the town, in conversations with survivors, and rescuers.

One of the survivors is Vanik Shemoyan, an engineer from the now non-existent sugar refinery. We met that grief-bent man when he was leaving the first aid centre, with a bag filled with bread, canned food and warm clothes. "This is what was remained from our enterprise," he said, pointing to the disfigured facade of the brick building with no glass in its windows. And we have no place to live in...but there is a loss, more terrible: my younger son lost his life—together with all other classmates during a school lesson. In other families children became orphans. I have given shelter to two such children and will try to become a good father to them."

A young woman stood in mournful silence near a five storeyed building, with a collapsed wall, and the interior of the flats thus made open to see. The young woman's tiny tots survived but other family members did not. One can see their smiling faces even now from a photograph in the deserted flat.

Helicopters touch down once in every ten minutes at the stadium which is used as an aerodrome these sorrowful days. They bring medicines, food products, tents, and the people that can give real assistance to injured people.

"We have formed our first team three hours after the catastrophe and since then we have been doing the utmost to release from under debris those in whom there is still a glimmer of life," said chairman of the Soviet Red Cross Dmitriy Venediktov. "We have just managed to rescue a four-year-old girl who was buried alive in a room of a collapsed house on Wednesday. The girl remained safe and sound only by a miracle, and all of us—doctors, nurses and sanitars are very glad to have good luck. These happy minutes brighten up our difficult heart-rendering work."

USSR in Mourning for Earthquake Victims

LD1012204688 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—The day of mourning is marked on December 10 by the decision of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR in connection with the natural calamity, the disastrous December 7 earthquake in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

National flags are flying at half-mast over the Kremlin in Moscow, on the whole territory of the country. Entertainments were cancelled everywhere, and the Central Television and All-Union Radio changed programs of their transmissions. Mourning meetings where held in Leningrad, Ulyanovsk, Bryansk, many other cities of the country. Their participants observed a minute of silence in memory of the people killed by the earthquake.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Armenia's distress area on Saturday. He is familiarizing himself with the course of rescue operations, with victim life-support measures.

The radio, the television and the press provide a regular and detailed coverage of the efforts being undertaken by the Soviet people as a whole, who extended a helping hand to the Armenian brothers, in eliminating the consequences of the natural calamity, in saving human lives.

According to the initial preliminary data, the earthquake in Armenia took a toll of 40-45,000 lives. About 12,000 were injured and over a half a million left homeless.

Information about the assistance, being sent to Armenia by enterprises, institutions, organisations, individuals is coming in practically every minute from all republics of the country, many towns and settlements. Messages of condolences with the relatives and friends of the earthquake killed people, the whole of the Armenian people continue coming in from all parts of the USSR, from many states of the world. Many states sent financial and other aid to the Soviet Union, this aid continues coming and broadening.

Rescue and restoration operations are in full swing in Leninakan, Spitak and other settlements in Armenia, hit by the disastrous earthquake. Huge quantities of equipment, rescue teams, builders, repair men, medics have already come to the republic. The operations are being coordinated by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo's commission, headed by Member of the Politburo, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Ryzhkov, who in his All-Union radio address on Friday dwelt on the current state of affairs.

Yerevan Mass for Victims

LD1112215788 Moscow TASS in English 2143 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 12 TASS—New and new planes are landing at Yerevan airport every minute, bringing voluntary rescue teams, medical staff and buildings workers, as well as foods, medicines and other relief supplies for Armenia's stricken areas.

Some 170 heavy transport aircraft arrived from Moscow, Minsk, Kazan, Riga and Kishinev, as well as from the Urals and central Asia last night. A TASS correspondent

was told at the Armenian civil aviation directorate. One of the world's biggest planes "An-124-Ruslan" delivered four powerful cranes and other heavy large-sized cargos to Yerevan on Sunday.

A memorial prayer for the souls of those who had died or were injured in the earthquake was held at the Echmiadzin Monastery near Yerevan on Sunday. The mass attended by Christians and non-believers was conducted by Archbishop Neres Pazapalian.

The Supreme Patriarch Vazgen I. Catholicos of all Armenians, read a sermon in which he thanked all those who had extended the hand of help and mercy to stricken Armenia. He mentioned specially the concern of the Soviet Government and the peoples of the USSR who share the pain of the Armenian people and are giving them all-round support.

Relief Efforts Continue Amid Devastation

Children Rehoused in Republic

PM1112175588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Dec 88 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Unattributed roundup of reports on Armenian earthquake relief effort: "Around-the-Clock Aid to Victims"]

[Excerpt] At the Armenian SSR's Permanent Mission in Moscow, Permanent Representative E. Aykazyan told an IZVESTIYA correspondent:

"The second floor of the Permanent Mission has become a kind of parcel center. People are bringing warm clothes and footwear for adults and children. You can't keep up with it all. Armenians living in Moscow are helping to sort things out and to make up parcels. It is getting harder to transport volunteers who have expressed a wish to work in the disaster area; the planes are full. There are many telephone calls from Muscovites offering to take children from Armenia into their families. But you know, I'm in constant touch with Yerevan. Unfortunately, few children have survived the earthquake. Our thanks to everyone for their charity! The children have been housed in boarding houses in the republic. That is enough for the time being...." [passage omitted]

Child Care Plans Announced

NC1212103488 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0940 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Summary From Poor Reception] "Attention: Telephone calls are being received by the (?editorial staff) of the radio in which citizens are expressing their concern over the (?settlement) of the children that have been affected by the earthquake." The center set up to gather information on these children states that "those children that have suffered from the earthquake," as well as (?families), "have been temporarily housed in the Youth Palace" and in other public buildings. "No children have been sent nor will they be sent out of the republic" by this center. The center proposes "for the temporary, we repeat, temporary" housing of the children, that they be sent to "Armenian teachers" and [word indistinct] in the various cities of the Soviet Union. For more information call (?833092), 833432, and 834940. The address is: Yerevan (?Moscow Street No 31).

News Conference on Relief Aid

LD1012173588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] As we have already reported, a meeting with journalists has been held in Moscow at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center. Yuriy Petrovich Chaplygin, deputy head of the USSR Council of Ministers Information Department, briefed them on the emergency in the disaster areas and reported on what took place yesterday and what is being done today. Here is a recording for you to listen to:

[Begin Chaplygin recording] The primary task now is to clear away the rubble and obstructions as soon as possible, and to rescue those who are still alive. Last night over 20 truck-mounted cranes were delivered to the disaster areas. A great deal of machinery is being transferred independently from the neighboring areas of Georgia, Azerbaijan, the northern Caucasus, and along the railroad line. Unfortunately only one line is in operation, via Azerbaijan and Baku, along the border—this is a very long route. Energetic measures are being taken to restore traffic along the Tbilisi-Leninakan line, and to Yerevan and further along.

No fewer than 500 truck-mounted cranes will be engaged in clearing obstructions by 11 December. This work demands very great care as there are heavy slabs involved. Moving one slab can bring down other slabs. Taking into account the great degree of destruction, it has been decided not to restore the town of Spitak. It will be totally rebuilt, as it was the ancient capital of Armenia. People have left it, but it will continue to live.

According to the calculations and assessments of the experts, it will take 2 years to completely restore what has been destroyed. The medical personnel from Yerevan, Moscow, and other cities of the union are working very well in the disaster areas. They were highly praised by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov in an interview he gave to union radio today. Over the past 24 hours, 1,500 people have been rescued and extricated from the rubble.

According to data as of this morning, the total number of those hospitalized has reached 6,996 people. Medical equipment is being sent to the disaster areas. Last night a portable tomograph was sent. The first of the seriously injured have arrived at the (Sklefasovskiy-Vishnevskiy) Institute in Moscow, mainly with burns and crush injuries.

Specialized clinics in Kiev, Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities are ready to receive victims. Overnight three teams flew out with artificial kidney equipment. The provision of electricity to the polyclinic, blood transfusion points, and the fire protection service of the town of Leninakan began at 1415 yesterday from a local substation. Voltage has been supplied to the towns of Stepanavan and Kirovakan.

Emergency repair work on the Kirovakan TETS continued on 9 December. That is a major station. By yesterday evening two turbogenerators were operational at the Razdan GES. In the opinion of specialists, the damage at that station is insignificant. In the area of the Armenian nuclear power station the force of the underground shock registered 5.5 points. The station was carefully inspected and checked. No damage was observed. There are no adverse observations on the working of its systems and equipment. Both generating sets at the nuclear power station are now carrying their nominal load of 400 megawatts each. It should be noted that all buildings and structures at the Armenian nuclear power station were planned and built with due consideration for the seismic conditions, and furthermore with a large safety margin.

In the area of rail transportation, traffic on the section between Leninakan and Ayrum was interrupted as a result of the earthquake. According to preliminary figures, about 22 km of the upper structure of the track were damaged; debris, gaps in the track, and filling involve a total volume of approximately 35,000 cubic meters. A bridge measuring 232 meters has been damaged. Twenty kilometers of the traction power supply system have been destroyed, along with 80 km of overhead communications lines. The trucks of two freight trains were derailed during the earthquake. Five railway locomotives, an electric train, and freight cars were damaged.

For the elimination of the consequences of the earthquake and for the restoration of rail traffic, there are in operation on the Yerevan section of the Transcaucasian railway four wrecking trains, and on the approaches there are four special trains with Kamaz truck tractors, two track machine-stations, and a train for installing power supplies. Taking part in the restoration operations are more than 2,000 railroad specialists. The restoration of traffic on the Leninakan-Kirovakan section is expected on 14-15 December. The situation as of 1800 on 9 December was that operational traffic had been restored from Leninakan station to Nalband station in this region. There are 300 freight cars carrying coal, more than 2,000 tank cars carrying oil products, and 100 cars carrying buses, and other machinery, materials, and equipment on their way. There are currently being prepared 73 through-goods trains, which will deliver to the regions of the disaster 80,000 tons of coal, 1,700 tank cars carrying gasoline, 600 tank cars carrying diesel fuel, more than 4,000 tank cars carrying fuel oil, and 700 tank cars carrying aircraft fuel, essential for the aircraft currently maintained there. For the accommodation of those who have lost their homes, trains are being formed on the railways numbering 260 passenger carriages overall, supplied with the essential bed linen and prerequisites for accommodation. That's the information. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Efforts

LD1012172188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpts] A meeting with journalists took place today at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center. USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Mikhaylovich Nikiforov spoke at it. He said, in part:

[Begin Nikiforov recording] [passage omitted] A plane has taken off from Cuba carrying 2 ½ tons of blood plasma to provide help for the victims. The plane was seen off at the airport by Fidel Castro in person.

We already have the first results of help given by specialists who have arrived in Yerevan. Specifically, I was telephoned and told that the teams from France, whose specialists have arrived, have already, together with Soviet citizens, saved 60 people.

The tragedy in Armenia is revealing the deepest understanding and sympathy. Condolences are being expressed by the leaders of many states. Over 50 telegrams have reached us, addressed to the general secretary, expressing condolences—Comrades Zhivkov, Jaruzelski, Ceausescu, Comrade Castro, and others. U.S. President Reagan, who is completing his term of office, and the current president-elect, Bush, have been in touch personally to express their readiness to provide any assistance. Mr Shultz has sent a personal letter to the foreign minister expressing his readiness for a meeting to discuss all questions relating to that assistance. It may be that such a meeting will not be possible at the present time, but the message and this wish alone say a great deal. We are deeply thankful and grateful both for the help being given and for the expression of sympathy and concern. We regard everything happening now in connection with the disaster that has stricken us as a true example that one can and must live in peace on earth, in a spirit of mutual assistance. [end recording]

Republics Provide Relief

LD0912205188 Moscow TASS in English 1941 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—Organs of union republics took initiative in mobilizing population to render assistance to Armenia stricken with a devastating earthquake. Aid centres are being set up. Such a centre in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, took a decision to send to Armenia builders and materials to erect a block of apartment houses, secondary school, kindergarten, shops and services establishments in an Armenian city.

Other republics are also active in rendering assistance. The Ukrainian authorities allocated 16,600 accomodations at various health-building centres of the republic for Armenian families. Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, prepared health-building centres to receive 3,000 Armenian children.

The coordination council of the Internationalist Movement of Estonian Working People suggested that December 17 be declared a day of assistance to quake victims and all earnings of this day be donated to the assistance fund.

Blood banks in Latvia are operating round-the-clock. Blood is dispatched to Armenia. Latvian collective and state farms assist victims with food. Moldavia is collecting children's clothes.

Planes with cargoes necessary to help the Armenian population overcome consequences of the natural calamity, land at the Yerevan Airport every five-ten minutes.

Relief Effort in Yerevan

LD0912180888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; unidentified reporter's 9 December report from Yerevan—recorded]

[Text] Every 10 to 15 minutes transport planes arrive at Zvartnots Airport from all corners of the country and abroad. Today the Lenin Children's Fund sent clothing, footwear, and linen worth over R100,000. Tents have been delivered from Leningrad, and other towns have donated medicines, bedding, and blood. Students from Yerevan's higher educational establishments, men of the Soviet Army and simply volunteers are helping with unloading. But at the same time, ambulances continually drive out onto the runway as the moving of victims from the disaster zone continues. They are immediately taken to hospitals in Yerevan and other nearby towns. [video shows aircraft coming in to land and Il-76 transport plane on the ground; troops and civilians manhandling Cargo; an ambulance with a patient who has been put aboard on a stretcher]

We took these pictures today in the streets of the Armenian capital. At the university building volunteers were being registered who have expressed a wish to go out to the site of the disaster and help in clearing debris and in construction. The young people had the tools they would need in their hands and had prepared their personal belongings. Everyone knows they are not going just for 1 or 2 days. [video shows students giving their names, grim-faced young people on a bus; correspondent with microphone, speaking to a young man] Are many students from Yerevan University volunteering to go to help the victims?

[Young man] Very many are going. Everyone wants to go, but it's impossible because a very large number of people have already arrived there. [words indistinct] Only the best-trained are being sent.

[Reporter] The picture is the same in all the other higher educational establishments of the city and many enterprises. All the people of the republic are now hastening to help the victims.

This is the Hematology and Blood Transfusion Scientific Research Institute. People have been coming here today in an endless stream. Whole families have been arriving. Work goes on here around the clock without a break. People of different nationalities are giving blood. The shared grief has rallied them together. [video shows young people with luggage boarding a bus. People cueing at reception desk, giving blood]

Azerbaijani Workers To Donate Wages

NC1212100688 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Fulfilling their promise for internationalism and sharing the great grief in fraternal Armenia, the progressive collectives of the Trust for Mechanizing Industrial Establishments, the Baku [word indistinct] Electrical Equipment Production Union, Trust No 4 affiliated with the Republic's Ministry of Construction, the industrial complex in Yevlakh, and the Union for Production of Metal Products for Cultural and Livelihood Services Establishments have launched an initiative to work on 7 and 18 December and donate their earnings from these 2 days to the fund set up to help the victims of the earthquake.

The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Trade Unions Presidium has welcomed the initiative of the work collectives and called on all the workers of the republic to join. Trade union organizations have embarked on explanatory and organizational work in the collectives of factories, [word indistinct], and mines, as well as in construction and transportation organizations, for securing widespread support for the [word indistinct] move by the Azerbaijan workers.

Azerbaijan's 'Fraternal Assistance'

NC1112072088 Baku Domestic Service in Armenian 0454 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the republican press review]

[Text] These days, like all the workers' collectives of the USSR, the workers of the Azerbaijan SSR are extending the hand of fraternal assistance to the victims of the Armenian earthquake. The republican newspapers carry a series of reports on the activities being carried out by basic establishments in Baku, Sumgait, and other cities, as well as by workers' collectives in the other rayons of the republic, in this respect. The reports appear under the headline "Forgetting the Anger Against Each Other."

Azerbaijani Railmen Dispatch Aid

LD0912223088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by V. Batalov, M. Mamedov, V. Vyazov, and B. Zamchinskiy]

[Text] [Vyazov] The railroad workers of Azerbaijan have probably never worked with such intensity or in such a precise and coordinated manner. For it is they who are having to efficiently dispatch during these days unusually large quantity of freight which is coming in from many of Baku's enterprises for fraternal Armenia. That means both machinery, construction materials, and special equipment and clothing. Large capacity stock has been assembled to transport oil products which is so necessary today for the neighbors who have fallen into misfortune. Over the entire length of the route traffic controllers are ensuring green lights for trains heading for Armenia. [video shows freight trains being maneuvered including oil carriers; work in progress in a signal box; video switches to show Z.F. Abdullayev, chief of the Azerbaijan railway—identified by screen caption—being interviewed by correspondent M. Mamedov]

[Begin recording] [Abdullayev] Up to today, we have already dispatched eight trains with various cargos in addition to the flow of stock which is supposed to go to Armenia.

[Mamedov] And the flow of passengers has probably increased as well.

[Abdullayev] Without doubt. The movement of trains on the section from Tbilisi to Yerevan has been broken in connection with the earthquake. Therefore, at the request of the Transcaucasian Railway, we have come to an agreement with the Ministry of Railways; as for passenger trains from Moscow to Yerevan, Rostov to Yerevan, and Tbilisi to Yerevan, this is already the second day that we have been effecting passenger traffic through the Azerbaijan Railway.

[Mamedov] Are there any holdups?

[Abdullayev] There aren't any holdups. Passenger traffic is being effected in accordance with a precisely worked out schedule, and the total safe passage of these trains is being guaranteed. [end recording]

[Vyazov] Hundreds of enterprises and sovkhozes and kolkhozes of Azerbaijan are rendering assistance to the fraternal republic during these days.

Baku Commandant Appeals for Calm

LD1112214088 Baku Domestic Service in Russian 0255 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Appeal by the Military Commandant of the Baku Special District]

[Text] In connection with the tragic earthquake of unprecedented force in the Armenian SSR which caused widescale destruction and human casualties, I appeal to the Armenian population of the city of Baku. We are all witnesses to the fact that the situation in the capital of the Azerbaijan SSR is gradually returning to normal. Life is returning to its habitual course. The work of enterprises, transportation, institutions, and educational establishments has resumed. In the past 24 hours there have been no instances of disorders.

However, in a number of cities and districts of the Armenian SSR hit by the disaster, the situation is becoming sharply complicated. The increased number of people entering Armenia has naturally created additional difficulties in finding them accommodation and, most important of all, [word indistinct] the efforts for overcoming the effects of the earthquake. Moreover, I want to inform you that for technical and other reasons there is no possibility of maintaining a large number of flights on the Baku-Yerevan route. [passage indistinct]

I appeal to you not to leave your native hearths, not to believe the various rumors that are being put about, and to remain calm. [passage indistinct]

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the special district of the City of Baku.

Azerbaijan Hospital Helps Victims

LD1112230688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy rayon, which borders Armenia, was among the first to respond to the natural calamity that hit the neighboring republic. Our special correspondent Sergey Omelchenko reports.

[Omelchenko] As soon as another orange-colored Aeroflot helicopter flies in from Kirovokan, an ambulance rushes off to the Kazakhskiy rayon hospital of the Azerbaijan SSR. The staff of this not very large medical establishment tries to provide first aid and to fulfill their medical duties. People feel compassion toward those who are in trouble. Walking past the rooms and along the corridors of this hospital, one can see that it is already difficult to accomodate all those in need of help. Here is Asad Khalilovich Khalilov, deputy chief dictor of Kazakhskiy rayon hospital. Asad Khalilovich, how many patients have you received over the recent period?

[Khalilov] We have received 127 patients with various traumas. They have been given treatment here; some were discharged and sent home, some were sent to Baku

for further highly-qualified medical treatment. Because of poor weather conditions, we cannot bring in all the patients at once. Therefore, our team is still working in the earthquake zone, that is, in the area of Spitak, and is giving aid to the injured there. For this purpose, a sufficient quanitity of dressings and medicines for first aid has been sent there. They are working 24 hours a day there. We send all kinds of food there and help emaciated patients who have suffered from the earthquake. We are doctors and do not discriminate between Azeris, Armenians, or other nationalities. We regard them as patients and help them. Taking people to the hospital, priority is given to children, the elderly, and emaciated patients; and we give aid within our powers to others.

Aid From Baku, Arctic Reported

LD1112183288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet people are striving to help the fraternal Armenian people not only with sympathy but with specific acts. Common grief has brought out our people's best qualities—lofty humanism, a sense of civic duty, and internationalism. Radio and TASS correspondents report:

Baku: To give 1 day's wages to the fund for aid to the victims; to reexamine the schedule for delivering necessities to the neighboring republic; to process cargoes for Armenia as quickly as possible. These are the decisions adopted at the meetings of working collectives in most enterprises, organizations, and institutions in Baku, Kirovabad, Mingechaur, and other towns and cities in Azerbaijan. Over the last few days more than 25,000 tons of fuel, 40,000 tons of fuel oil, hundreds of tons of bitumen and lubricating oil have been dispatched from Azerbaijan to the earthquake-stricken towns and areas of Armenia.

Everyday, via the Nakhichevan branch of the Azerbaijan railway 10-12 freight trains are passing through over and above schedule. The railwaymen collectives have sent their neighbors five electric locomotives. They are preparing to send an electrical assembly train with machines and a team of specialists. The stream of clothing and food is becoming wider. Food as well as medical preparations worth 10,000 rubles have been dispatched to the disaster areas by the republic's agricultural industry. The presidium of the republic's council of trade unions has appealed to the working people to support the proposal of a number of front-ranking collectives to work on the weekend of 17-18 December for the aid fund for victims. And the workers of the Shchekinskiy Rayon held a subbotnik on 10 December and transferred all the money earned at it to account No 71412.

Today an air bridge 7,400 km long linked the Okhotsk Sea with the capital of Armenia. Flights on the new air route Magadan-Novosibirsk-Yerevan were made by IL-76 aircraft. They delivered to the disaster area tents and stoves, blankets, clothing, and other necessities. The airmen allocated from their own fund alone property worth more than 30,000 rubles. Both flights were made free of charge. The airmen also decided to transfer to the aid fund 1 day's pay. Hundreds of other collectives in eastern oblasts of the country made the same decision. The collection of money for earthquake victims is continuing in all areas of Kolyma and Chukotka, on the distant Arctic stations on the forsaken ice of the Arctic, and on Vrangel and Ayon islands.

Baku Commandant Issues Appeal

NC1012193588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 10 Dec 88

["Appeal" by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, to the citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR]

[Text] Special checkpoints have been set up with a view to organizing the travel to Baku in private and state vehicles, facilitating the transportation of people and goods, and maintaining social rules while entering the city.

Recently the congestion of people and vehicles at the checkpoints has significantly increased, and this is obstructing the normal flow of transportation.

I explain the following with a view to organizing the entry of citizens and automobiles and transport vehicles into Baku:

1. All citizens who are covered by the pass regime in Baku; citizens who have documents confirming that they work or study within Baku city limits; citizens who have arrived in Baku from other cities by air and who have air tickets; citizens who are instructed to complete pass procedures, including those who [words indistinct] their travel to [word indistinct], hospitals, polyclinics, procurator's office, airport, railway stations, sanatoriums, and vacation homes; private vehicles in Baku with registration plates beginning with the letters A, G, P, I, R, T, U, [words indstinct], including vehicles registered in other cities but since transferred to Baku [words indistinct]; state and social transportation vehicles which are registered in Baku; and buses, intercity transport vehicles, including [word indistinct] transport vehicles, are allowed to enter Baku city. In the event that it becomes imperative to allow transport vehicles from other cities to enter Baku, the leading officials of establishments and organizations will be required to submit, 3 days in advance, three copies of [words indistinct] to the commandant of the area in which the checkpoint at the city entrance is located.

2. Citizens traveling to Baku on state transportation vehicles must possess [words indistinct].

3. Individuals who carry firearms, cold [soguk] weapons, and [word indistinct], and who fail to comply with the demands of the officials on duty, will be detained and handed over to the internal affairs organs together with their documents, weapons, and [word indistinct].

Citizens, we urge you to comply with these demands.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Workers Aid Efforts Described

LD1112093888 Moscow TASS in English 0914 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—Workers at many enterprises in the Soviet Union worked voluntary on Saturday. They donated their earnings to the aid fund for the quake victims in Armenia. The working day started with a minute of silence in tribute to the victims.

At a meeting held after the minute of silence, the council of labour collective of the Ulyanovsk car factory took a decision to donate half a million roubles to the rescue fund. It also pledged hundred thousand roubles worth of clothes, bed-clothes and building materials. Workers loaded these supplies during the subbotnik (a day of voluntary labour) into trucks that will carry them to Yerevan.

According to provisional data, more than 250,000 men at more than 300 enterprises and organisations in Georgia worked on Saturday. They pledged around two million roubles which they earned towards the aid fund. The workers of the republic also decided to organise a subbotnik on December 17.

During the work shift yesterday 400-odd workers at the production association Moldavgidromash in Kishinev, the capital of Moldavia, donated their blood for the injured in Armenia.

Azerbaijan's largest building associations organised several international teams to restore quake-shattered houses. They are bringing to Armenia bricks, cement, concrete and various structures. A total of 132 Tons of flour, tangerines, lemons, apples and children's wear has been sent to Armenian cities Leninakan and Kirovakan. Medical personnel from Azerbaijan also sent drugs and bandages.

Forty planes took off from Minsk, Byelorussia, for Lininakan with the supplies of cranes, welding equipment and equipment for clearing the debris. The first 200-man team, consisting of machine-operators, welders, gas cutters and assembly workers, left Byelorussia.

Specialists of the military transport aviation had been working under great strain for three days as more than 150 military transport aircraft—AN-22, IL-76 of all modifications and Ruslan aircraft—were being used. Military aviation already brought into the stricken area 28 heavy cranes, 156 excavators, 70 tons of foodstuffs, 85 tons of children's clothes, two blood transfusion stations, 25 units of special equipment and nearly 10 tons of medical supplies.

A convoy of trucks carrying beds and tents for people left homeless left Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent for Spitak, which was hit hardest in the quake.

Dozens of yurts (circular domed tents) were sent from the Kazakhstan capital by a special flight to Leninakan. Yurts will provide temporary shelter for homeless people.

Kazakhstan is preparing to accomodate the quake victims as 1,200 beds in hospitals and some 5,000 places in sanatoria have been prepared. Around 200 families expressed their wish to receive residents from fraternal Armenia.

The central co-operative union (Tsentrosoyuz) of the USSR and its branches in union republics, territories and regions pledged six million roubles, including three million of private donations, [which] were transferred to the rescue fund by the workers of the gas industry. The ministry said it was ready to receive 2,000 children and adults at its sanatoria and rest homes.

Turkmen Official on Aid

LD1012101488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Announcer] I asked Annamurad Khodzhamuradov, chairman of the Turkmenistan Council of Ministers, to describe the situation in the republic on rendering assistance to Armenia.

[Begin Khodzhamuradov recording] The working people of Soviet Turkmenistan have learned of this news with pain; all are prepared to extend a helping hand to a friend at this time, which is a serious one for the Armenian people. It is precisely at this serious time that the great Leninist national policy of the CPSU manifests itself.

A reliable bridge between Yerevan and Ashkhabad has been established. The Aeroflot planes are delivering the cargoes of essential goods to Yerevan's people, who suffered a natural calamity. The working people of Soviet Turkmenistan will do everything possible to give the maximum possible assistance to the Armenian people for the speediest elimination of the effects of this terrible earthquake. [end recording]

Turkmenistan Sends Aid

LD0912222188 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service at 1800 GMT on 9 December carries on its "Vremya" newscast a 2-minute recorded video report from Ashkhabad by correspondent K. Babayev. Babayev says that the city's residents know from their own experience 40 years ago what an earthquake is like. Voluntary donations for earthquake relief are being gathered for Armenia. A governmental coordination commission was set up on 7 December. The first transport aircraft carrying a team of doctors and medical

supplies has gone from Ashkhabad airport to Yerevan. The Turkmenian Civil Aviation Directorate has assigned two aircraft and a helicopter to transport supplies to Armenia. Video shows street scenes, solidarity meetings, members of the commission, and airport scenes.

A. Khodzhamuradov, chairman of the Turkmenian SSR Council of Ministers, is interviewed and says: "A reliable bridge has now been established between Yerevan and the city of Ashkhabad. Aeroflot aircraft are delivering prime necessity goods to Yerevan for the population, which has been stricken by the natural calamity. The working people of Soviet Turkmenia will do everything possible to extend the maximum assistance to the Armenian working people."

The correspondent goes on to say that mobile blood transfusion units can at present be seen at many building sites and educational establishments.

Latvians Donate Blood, Money

LD0912174888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Correspondents Yelena Grava and Vladimir Abramson report from Riga]

[Text] We stand by Armenia.

For the 2d day, in response to telephone calls, Latvian radio and television is supplying the numbers of bank accounts where money for the earthquake victims can be transferred. Enterprises are allocating materials and equipment.

In Riga's three major hospitals, medical teams have been set up, the first of which will fly to Armenia today. An aircraft carrying containers of blood donated in Latvia left yesterday for Yerevan.

People are bringing money and warm clothing to public organizations such as the Latvian People's Front and the Red Cross. Latvian trade unions have transferred R1 million. Many Riga residents and inhabitants of other towns are ready to receive Armenia's children.

Equipment Sent to Armenia

LD1012194188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The staff of the military transport air fleet is carrying out tasks of particular importance at the present time. Specialists, various machines, and items of equipment, food, and medical supplies are being taken to Armenia. Specialists of the military transport air fleet are working very intensively. Air supplies to the disaster area are being made around the clock. More than 150 military transport planes are involved—An-22, Il-76 of all types, and Ruslan [An-124].

In accordance with arrangements by Comrade Ryzhkov, chairman of the commission of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the following have already been delivered to the disaster area: 28 heavy cranes, 15 excavators, 70 tons of food, 85 tons of children's clothing, 2 blood transfusion stations, 25 items of special technology, some 10 tons of medical supplies, and 10 tons of communications technology.

In the past 24 hours 1,100 military builders and their equipment have been sent to Armenia, and more than 1,500 people trained in civil defense, and 45 items of special technology have been dispatched there. Last night a unit of landing troops were brought to Yerevan and they immediately embarked on rescue work using their equipment.

Some 350 tents and 90 tons of medical equipment have been transported to Leninakan and Yerevan. The transport work is being done in difficult weather conditions. For that reason first class crews are working on all the military transport planes who are permitted to carry out tasks in particularly difficult conditions, night and day.

'Mass Organizations' Offer Aid

LD0912212088 Moscow TASS in English 2026 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—All Soviet mass organizations are participating in noble actions to render aid to quake victims in Armenia.

The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist League (VLKSM) dispatched a special train with volunteers to the Transcaucasian republic and transferred five million roubles to the assistance fund. The USSR Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and the Fleet (DOSAAF) donated two million roubles to Armenia.

The Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Countries and the Board of the Soviet Peace Fund appropriated three milion roubles for construction of a hospital in one of stricken areas. Societies for friendship with the USSR in several foreign countries expressed readiness to deliver equipment for the hospital.

The Moscow Soviet of People's Deputies (city council) transferred, on behalf of Muscovites, five million roubles to the assistance fund of quake victims. One tonne of blood was dispatched to Armenia from Moscow on the first day when an announcement was made on voluntary blood giving for quake victims. The capital is about to dispatch a trainload of machinery to the Transcaucasian republic.

Aid is coming in from abroad. Two transport planes from France landed at the Yerevan airport this afternoon. They have dogs trained for rescue work, medicines and other equipment. French specialists went to the cities of Leninakan, Spitak and other places to search for people buried under debris and render them assistance.

A special plane delivered a batch of medicines from Switzerland.

Medical Aid Described

LD1012182488 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Leninakan December 10 TASS—By TASS special correspondents Boris Girshchenko and Boris Yanchenkov:

The airport of the Armenian city of Leninakan, badly hit by the December 7 earthquake, looks like a front line. Endless streams of buses and ambulance cars ride to the half-ruined air terminal, people with stretchers are hurrying to planes to urgently take victims to hospitals of Yerevan and other nearby towns.

Various medicines have been put on bed sheets spread on right of the asphalt, doctors and nurses are working with syringes. They treat the injured people accurately and promptly.

People in white smocks are doing an arduous job. We approached one of such first-aid centres.

Grach Kazaryan, a stomatologist, is head of a medical team. We are from the Eighth Stomatological Polyclinic of Yerevan, he said. You should not be confused at seeing dentists here. Any medica can give skilled first aid. In two hours we have treated 20 victims. All of them have been sent by air to hospital.

Nearby, there was a group of young women with medical kits in their hands.

There are twelve of us, said physician Seda Aidinyan. All of us are district physicians of Yerevan's Second Medical Association and we have come voluntarily to assist the victims.

And what about your patients in Yerevan?

Our colleagues who stayed in the capital will voluntarily do a double job, they will work also at night time.

Commenting on the obtaining situation, Minister of Pubilc Health of the USSR Yevgeniy Chazov, whom we met in Leninakan, said that the situation in the earthquake-hit areas was very complicated. There is a huge loss of life and a great many injured people. 500 skilled doctors from various reigons of the country have now come to Yerevan, the city with the republican main medical institutions. 13 planes have brought the necessary medicines and medical equipment.

200 medical teams have been sent to the distress area, 25 of them—to the countryside. The medical workers are toiling selflessly and tirelessly, frequently in field and, to be more precise, in front line conditions.

But to render assistance to the injured people, to fight for their lives is part of the job, the minister underlines. Sanitary-prophylactic, anti-epidemic work is unfolding, which is also very important. 30 medical groups, equipped with sanitary-and-epidemiologic chambers, other necessary equipment have been dispatched to earthquake-hit towns and districts. The Defence Ministry of the USSR is sending two sanitary-and-epidemiologic trains.

The struggle for human lives goes on.

Continuing Relief Work Detailed

LD1012203788 Moscow TASS in English 2021 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 10 TASS—by TASS special correspondents:

The bitterness of bereavement, which is shared by all Soviet peoples with Armenians today, has not dispirited the working people of the republic.

They continue persistent efforts to eliminate the aftermath of an unprecedentedly powerful earthquake.

Rubble in streets of Leninakan, Spitak and a number of other cities and towns in the disaster area is smoking, families left homeless try to keep warm at bonfires.

Tent cities are growing in quake-striken settlements. The tents were given by troops, enterprises and organisations from tens of Soviet cities. Army field kitchens are operating in areas hit the hardest by the disaster.

Mobile electric power stations helped to restore electric power supply in Leninakan on the same day the earthquake shook Armenia. But electricity is supplied only to hospitals, blood donor centres and sites of rescue work, where electricity is needed most.

People in the disaster area are also short of equipment, fuel, warm clothes and water.

In this time of trouble thousands of Armenians have seen how many real friends they have in neighbouring republics, in cities of faraway Siberia, Belorussia, the Ukraine and Baltic republics.

On Friday, the Yerevan Airport received 150 additional planes. In Leninakan, 180 planes landed at the airport on Friday instead of the usual 4-5. A Soviet Communist Party Politburo commission tackling the aftermath of the earthquake is coordinating the large-scale relief effort from Yerevan.

Volunteers ready to do any kind of work continue coming to the disaster area by plane, bus or road. Many of them come from far away.

People speaking different languages understand one another well enough when they are engaged, shoulder to shoulder, in disaster relief efforts.

Red Cross Official on Aid

LD1012152588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpts] At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center today there was a meeting with Soviet and foreign journalists. It was addressed by Aleksey Dmitriyevich Tyulyandin, first deputy chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of USSR Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

He said, in particular: [passage omitted] The people of our country responded immediately to this misfortune, and a blood donor drive was launched. For example, in Moscow alone on the night of 7-8 December 829 people volunteered and gave blood. [passage omitted]

Cargoes of aid are being sent to Armenia by the Red Cross and Red Crescent committees from all union republics, obkoms, and kraykoms. For example, Stavropol Kraykom sent 850 tents; the central committee of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has also sent tents, dressings, and a range of medicines. This has also been done by the societies in Kazakhstan, the Penza Obkom, the Lithuanian republican committee, and many others.

The public is donating clothing for the victims. Yesterday alone 52,000 articles of children's clothing and 400 packages of clothing for adults were donated. Today four trucks left for Armenia with this clothing.

There are many who have offered to receive Armenian children into their families for temporary accommodation and care. The executive committee headquarters, which is working round the clock, received on 8-9 December alone over 300 offers from Muscovites. They are all being registered, and when children arrive these offers will be taken up. Many sanatoriums and treatment centers are allocating places for Armenians so that while they have no housing or proper conditions, they can live in these treatment and convalescent institutions and restore their health.

The Soviet Red Cross Executive Committee has received telephone calls and telexes from many national Red Cross societies. The first of these were from the Red Cross organizations in Bulgaria, Poland, GDR, Hungary, the SFRY, Ethiopia, Switzerland, India, the PRC, Canada, and many other countries. A message was received from the Red Crescent organization in Turkey. All the messages express their condolences and readiness to render necessary aid.

Military Official on Army Aid

LD1012172988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] There was a meeting with journalists today at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center. It was addressed by Major General Anatoliy Grigoriyevich Aleksandrenko, senior official of the Chief Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. He said, in particular:

[Begin Aleksandrenko recording] In the past 3 days tens of thousands of large army tents, blankets, lighting units, heating stoves, hundreds of tons of foodsutffs including bread, fresh meat, tinned foods, sugar, vegetables, dozens of sanitary trucks and many other specialized trucks to carry water, fuel, foodstuffs, and equipment have been sent to the disaster area. Thanks to the efforts of the rear units of the Transcauscasus Military District, there are in all the affected towns and populated points many food points which have been installed and are working to feed the population and participants in the rescue work. In the town of Leninakan alone, there are over 20 such points. Every day the army food points are provinding food to over 15,000 people.

Near the affected towns army tent areas have been set up and multifunctional and surgical field hospitals have been established. Medical specialists have been sent to the disaster area from a wide area of military districts with the necessary medicines and medical equipment. Over 300 qualified military doctors have actually arrived and are rendering aid in the disaster areas. Military specialists are rendering medical assistance to almost 4,000 people every 24 hours. This is daily.

Aviation and automobile units and subunits are working intensely day and night under the maximum pressure. Tens of thousands who have been injured and need help, and many hundred tons of various freight have already been transported. I shall cite to you just one small example in order to give an idea of the aid which the Soviet Army is rendering to the affected population—and I stress that this is only part of it: Yesterday aviation and railway military transport carried to the disaster areas over 5,000 tents; today and tomorrow it is intended to dispatch a further 15,000 army tents. Air transport has carried 61 tons of foodstuffs, 14,000 sets of dry rations, and 90 tons of medical articles to the town of Leninakan. Rail transport has set off with 120,000 sets of dry rations to feed people. In the course of 24 hours in all the affected towns where our field bakeries have been set up, 18 tons of bread has been distributed to the population. Every day army canteens feed over 15,000 people. In short, the army is doing everything to give real help to alleviate the aftermath of the terrible disaster for the people of Armenia. [end recording]

Army Aids Relief Effort

PM1012181588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report: "The Army Responded Immediately"]

[Text] As has repeatedly been the case in times of trial, Soviet servicemen have joined without delay in eliminating the aftermath of the earthquake and giving help to the victims. Troop subunits are doing work which demands of every officer, ensign, sergeant, and soldier the utmost spiritual and physical effort, selflessness, and fortitude. Servicemen, loyal sons of their people, are acting heroically under extreme conditions.

The following people speak of the measures taken so far:

Lieutenant General A. Kapochkin, first deputy chief of staff of USSR Civil Defense:

"A combined work mechanization detachment and a combined detachment of the republic's civil defense have been sent to the disaster regions. More than 400 machine operators with excavators, truck cranes, means of transport, and gas cutting and welding equipment at their disposal have made up the mechanized column of the Armenian State Construction Committee. All these forces and means have already begun rescue and other urgent work.

"In Leninakan and Kirovakan more than 85,000 people are participating in rescuing victims and clearing debris as members of nonmilitarized civil defense formations. Some 620 units of equipment are involved in this work. Our formations are working in close cooperation with Soviet Army and MVD units and subunits.

"In Spitak—one of the worst hit cities—civil defense emissaries from the Georgian SSR have begun work. Mechanized units from other parts of the country are on their way to Armenia. Subunits and the best specialists of the civil defense medical service have been sent there from the largest cities and scientific centers."

Medical Service Lieutenant General P. Vyazitskiy, chief of the Preventive Medicine Directorate and deputy chief of the Central Military Medical Directorate of the USSR Defense Ministry:

"During the very first hours after the earthquake 36 specialized aid teams with all the necessary medical equipment were sent to the region of the disaster. They include specialists from military hospitals and the troop medical service of the Transcaucasus Military District. On 8 December 125 medical workers from the S.M. Kirov Military Medical Academy flew to Yerevan. They include 80 military physicians. The team is headed by Medical Service Colonel I. Kosachev, former chief surgeon of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan. More than 100 other medics of the academy are ready to fly out. Some 140 specialists—mainly surgeons, traumatologists, neurosurgeons, and anesthetists—have left our central military medical establishments for Yerevan. A mobile field hospital has been prepared for dispatch in Moscow. A reserve of beds has been created to receive casualties at the Military Medical Academy and in the large district hospitals in Tbilisi, Rostov-na-Donu, Odessa, Kiev, Lvov, and Minsk. A specially equipped aircraft has flown from Tashkent to Armenia to evacuate victims.

"As of today, 9 December, military medics have given aid to almost 3,000 casualties. Medical Service Colonel General F. Komarov, chief of the Central Military Medical Directorate, and chief specialist medics of the USSR Ministry of Defense are in the earthquake region."

Lieutenant General V. Kuznetsov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Engineer Troops:

"Engineer subunits have been mobilized today in work on eliminating the aftermath of the earthquake in Kirovakan, Spitak, Leninakan, Stepanavan, and other population centers in the republic. Major General Brozhko, chief of the Transcaucasus Military District's engineer troops, has just been in touch with our troops' operational group. The servicemen are carrying out rescue and reconstruction work round the clock. The difficulties are great, but the misfortune is incommensurate with them. People realize what responsible tasks they have now shouldered....

"Two echelons are approaching the disaster region with equipment. It is accompanied by authorized driver-mechanics. In order to ensure three-shift work, local military commissariats are calling up servicemen in the reserve.

"At the engineer equipment repair base the dispatch of truck cranes, bulldozers, and excavators which are ready for work to the units for which they were destined has been held up. All these machines are being sent to Armenia.

"The engineer equipment storage bases of the North Caucasus, Volga, and Kiev Military Districts are handing over the necessary machinery and equipment to civil defense formations which have been sent to the disaster areas."

Colonel N. Astakhov, first deputy chief of the Military Transport Aviation Political Department:

"The first IL-76 arrived in Armenia on the morning of 8 December. On board were medical supplies, food, power plants, and other equipment so essential in the disaster area. In all, several dozen urgent flights have now been made, and many hundreds of tons of freight have been transported. The aircraft crews, incidentally, are taking a

very direct part in loading and unloading machinery. A plan has been drawn up for the delivery of everything necessary to the region. These flights could be called urgent aid flights.

"The weather in Armenia is unfavorable for us—the minimum, as aviators say. Therefore we are sending only first-class military pilots on the flights. Major A. Sytnik's crew is successfully fulfilling its missions. The captain is Russian by nationality. His navigator is Captain I. Gilfanov, a Tatar, and the flight technician is R. Bayramov, an Azerbaijani. On 8 December the crew made 3 flights, delivering 65 tons of freight to the disaster area.

"Crews which have fulfilled their international duty in Afghanistan are setting the tone in the work. Among the best are the subordinates of Major V. Korzh and Captain A. Nikolayev. I particularly wish to mention the Antey crew under the command of Major V. Pogodin. Under complex weather conditions the crew delivered a large blood transfusion station and 10 tons of associated equipment to Yerevan.

"The volume of work being fulfilled by military transport aviators is growing."

Major General O. Borisov, first deputy chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Capital Construction Organizational and Planning Directorate:

"Transcaucasus Military District military construction workers began eliminating the aftermath of the earthquake a few hours after the elements struck. Two military construction detachments have been airlifted to the disaster area from other parts of the country. Several more construction subunits are preparing to set out.

"We are sending to Armenia more than 40 units of heavy equipment, including 40-ton cranes, bulldozers, and large-capacity dumptrucks. A large quantity of construction materials has been allocated. In short, military construction workers are doing everything to ensure that aid for the Armenian people is timely and effective."

Church Donates R1 Million

LD0912215688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video speech by Vladimir, administrator of affairs of the Moscow patriarch, metropolitan of Rostov and Novocherkassk, and exarch of Western Europe, on 9 December—recorded]

[Text] By the blessing of Pimen, the most holy patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, I want to state the following:

The natural disaster which occurred in a number of the northern regions of Armenia on 7 December and brought with it destruction and human victims, has produced a reaction of deep pain in the hearts of all Soviet people, including all believers of the Russian Orthodox Church. If one limb suffers, all limbs suffer with it, and the whole body suffers, the Holy Apostle Paul teaches. Bear each other's burdens, the same apostle reminds us, and thus you will fulfil the law of Christ. In connection with this, the Most Holy Patriarch Pimen has today sent telegrams of condolences to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the head of our state, the government of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the most holy supreme patriarch, and the Catholicos of all Armenians.

Our church has today allocated R1 million to aid those who suffered from the earthquake; this aid is being rendered by both our eparchies, our parishes, our bishops and clergy, and individual believers. The most holy patriarch is addressing an appeal to orthodox believes to intensify their prayers and to make offerings locally of money, clothing, and everything which is necessary for those who have suffered. May God bless the peoples of our country and deliver them from all manner of misfortune and disorder.

Health Ministry Efforts Detailed

PM1012195588 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "First Aid"]

[Text] A press conference was held at the USSR Ministry of Health in Moscow yesterday at which First Deputy Health Minister I.N. Denisov spoke of the measures the ministry is taking to eliminate the aftermath of the earthquake in Armenia.

"As soon as information about the earthquake was received," Igor Nikolayevich said, "we set up an operational staff, which is operating round the clock. This staff includes representatives of the Pharmaceutical Administration, the 'Medtekhnika' Association, the Hematology and Blood Transfusion Center...

"Three and ½ hours after the report of the earthquake the staff organized the dispatch to Armenia of the first special aircraft with 78 specialists on board—surgeons, traumatologists, and neurosurgeons.

"During the night we organized several specialized teams, who flew to Armenia in the morning. Literally an hour ago we sent another aircraft to the scene of the event—an AN-22 supplied to us by the USSR Ministry of Defense. The freight on board includes a mobile plasmapheresis unit, a large number of blood substitutes, more than 80,000 disposable syringes, 120,000 reusable syringes, 300,000 needles, and 12,000 blood transfusion systems.

"It has to be said that aid is going to Armenia not only from us, from Moscow, but also from all the country's republics and oblasts. In particular, 1,500 hospital beds have already been deployed and prepared in Georgia for the victims. A helicopter air link has begun operating

between Tbilisi and the cities which have suffered most in the earthquake. More than 1,000 beds have also been deployed in Stavropol and Krasnodar Krays.

"During just one night 829 people in Moscow gave blood for the victims free of charge. We think that the quantity of blood given will soon exceed 600 liters. Of course, the question might arise: What about checking the blood for AIDS? Will we have time to subject it all to analysis? We will! Not a single gram of donated blood will go unchecked. I declare this absolutely officially.

"And the last point. We have now decided to reinforce the teams of neurosurgeons and infectious disease specialists working in Armenia and have just sent several more specialized teams to the republic. According to the latest data, 3,500 people have now been hospitalized."

Komsomol Sending Relief Supplies

PM1012195188 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the Komsomol Central Committee"]

[Text] The Komsomol Central Committee Secretariat yesterday adopted a resolution "On Immediate Measures To Eliminate the Consequences of the Earthquake in the Armenian SSR and Offer Aid to the Victims."

Support was voiced for urgent practical steps by Komsomol organizations to offer aid to people in trouble, organize voluntary blood donations, and collect and dispatch to the victims warm outerwear, tents, sleeping bags, medicines, dressings, and other essentials.

The leaders of Komsomol enterprises and economically accountable youth associations and centers manufacturing consumer goods, particularly children's outerwear and footwear and domestic goods, were instructed, by agreement with the labor collectives, to send some output to the Armenian Komsomol Central Committee to aid the victims.

Proposals to send volunteer detachments and groups of medics and specialists to the disaster areas to take part in reconstruction and rescue work were accepted. Support was voiced for an initiative by a number of Komsomol organizations to create detachments to collect food from the proprietors of personal subsidiary plots, send it to the Armenian SSR, and organize voluntary unpaid work on Saturdays and Sundays to produce additional food products.

Union republic Komsomol Central Committees and Komsomol kraykoms and obkoms were tasked with forming Komsomol youth detachments to combat snowdrifts along transport routes and to unload and load freightcars.

A Komsomol Central Committee operations headquarters under the leadership of S. Yepifantsev, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, was set up to coordinate Komsomol organizations' actions regarding Komsomol and youth participation in eliminating the consequences of the earthquake and offering aid to the victims. A group of senior Komsomol Central Committee workers has been sent to the Armenian SSR.

A decision was made to send the Komsomol Central Committee "Leninskiy Komsomol" train from Mineralnyye Vody to Yerevan, loading it en route with medicine, food products, outerwear, and other urgent freight for the earthquake victims. The agitation train contains two medical cars and teams of doctors.

Some R5 million has been allocated to the Armenian republic's Komsomol organization to aid the victims and eliminate the consequences of the earthquake. Union republic Komsomol Central Committees, kraykoms, obkoms, and Komsomol committees have been authorized to spend funds to provide the requisite aid to the victims and obtaining essentials.

WFTU Sends Aid

LD1012092188 Moscow TASS in English 0847 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Prague December 10 TASS—The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has sent one million roubles from its solidarity fund for the earthquake victims in Armenia. The WFTU urged the national trade union organisations that are members of the federation to render assistance in coping with the earthquake aftermath.

'Special Fund' Opened in Washington

LD1012174388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1202 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Washington has announced the establishment of a special fund and the opening of an account at one of the city's major banks, to which private persons and organizations can transfer donations.

ABC Television company reports that an aircraft will soon take off for Armenia carrying a group of doctors specializing in trauma and other specialists. Flying with them from the United States will be dogs specially trained to search for people under rubble.

The president of the U.S. association of Armenian priests (Khovnanyan) has stated that approximately 150 U.S. doctors have volunteered to go to the Soviet Union.

Japan Gives 1 Billion Yen

LD1112114688 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo December 11 TASS—The Japanese Government announced today its decision to give 1 billion yen in aid to the population of Armenia hit by a devastating earthquake. It also pledged 100 million yen worth of equipment for restoration operations, medical supplies, blankets and tents. A spokesman for the cabinet of ministers said Japan was ready to take part in eliminating the consequences of the tragedy and rendering medical assistance to the victims. To this end teams of rescue and medical workers are being formed for dispatching to Armenia.

A group of Japanese Government officials is leaving for the Soviet Union today where it will visit the disaster area and discuss with the Soviet side what Japan can specifically do for the relief effort.

Earlier the Japanese Red Cross pledged 10 million yen of aid to the quake victims.

Israel, Other Countries Send Aid

LD11121/4288 Moscow TASS in English 1715 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—TASS correspondents report: A Boeing-737 transport plane flew tonight from the Lyon airport to Yerevan with a cargo of medical supplies and necessaries collected by the local Armenian community. 19 rescuers and medics having experience of work in conditions of natural calamities also flew to Armenia.

Robert Runcie, archbishop of Canterbury, urged the British people today to render all-round assistance to Armenian people. He welcomed a massive public campaign launched in Britain for collecting necessaries and raising money to be sent to Armenia.

Two Tu-154 planes flew today from Ulaanbaator to Yerevan carrying foodstuffs that were sent by Mongolia to those affected by the earthquake.

A column of motor-vans left Ankara for the USSR today. The column sent by the Turkish branch of the Red Crescent Society will bring to the distress area medical supplies and food worth some 400 million lires. The number of a relief account was announced by the Turkish radio and television to which donations have started coming.

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua stated on Saturday that in these tragic days the Nicaraguan people were willing to send their blood for saving the lives of those who had been affected by the calamity.

The Zimbabwean people were grieved to hear about the tragedy in Armenia, says a telegram sent by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe to the Soviet leadership. A relief bank account was opened in Harare to which donations of individuals and public organizations can be deposited.

An Israeli transport plane with a group of medics and rescuers carrying dogs with them flew to Yerevan today. The group consists of 45 people who have all the necessary equipment for rescue operations and for rendering medical assistance for two to three weeks.

Aid Arrives From Abroad

LD1112174588 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—TASS correspondents report:

Telegrams expressing sympathy with the Armenian people, with all the Soviet people in connection with the earthquake in Armenia continue to come to the Soviet leadership. Reports on a truly international relief campaign to aid those affected by the natural calamity are coming to Moscow from all over the world.

A session of the All-Hungarian Council of Trade Unions expressed profound sympathy with the Armenian population in connection with the tragedy suffered by them. Hungarian trade unions are transferring 3 million forints for people affected by the earthquake.

The first large consignment of the Hungarian Red Cross Society containing antibiotics and disposable syringes worth a total of 2 million forints will be sent to Moscow on December 13. A special account was opened in the Hungarian National Bank to which over half a million forints have been deposited already by the Hungarian people.

A special flight of the Interflug air company brought to the USSR from the GDR on Saturday evening several tons of medicaments and other necessaries.

Fisseha Desta, member of the Politbureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and vice-president of Ethiopia, expressed profound condolences to the Soviet people over the death of tens of thousands of people as a result of an earthquake in Armenia.

The Japanese Government announced today that it had decided to allocate one billion yen as financial assistance to the population of Armenia that had fallen victim to a devastating earthquake. Apart from it, equipment needed for restoration work, medicaments, blankets and tents worth 100 million yen will be sent there.

A group of representatives of the Japanese Government is flying to the USSR today. They will visit the distress area and will discuss with the Soviet side what else can be done by Japan for helping rebuild the areas destroyed by the earthquake.

In connection with the tragic developments in Soviet Armenia the Central Committee of the Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth sent a message of condolences to the Central Committee of the Young Communist League (Komsomol). It said that young people of Afghanistan had launched a campaign for collecting donor blood for people affected by the natural calamity.

Harilaos Florakis, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece, visited the USSR Embassy in Greece today and made an entry in the book of condolences.

Problems With Rescue Efforts Detailed

Rescue Equipment Needed

LD0912221188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] It is reported from the operational headquarters of the USSR State Committee for Construction: A minimum of 300 cranes with a loading capacity of 16-40 tons is required in Armenia. The USSR Ministry of Defense has allocated 80 IL-76 and Antey transport aircraft to deliver this equipment. Construction organizations of the ministries of union republics are moving this equipment out to places where airstrips are situated. Today the first consignments of cranes with crews, the necessary fuel, spare parts, and foodstuffs will be transferred to Leninakan rayon. All republics are energetically seeking out material resources for transfer to Armenia. The dispatch of construction materials has begun. A headquarters is operating at the USSR State Committee for Construction to coordinate the activities in the construction complex.

A large group of specialists from the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply flew out to Armenia today to organize material and technical provision for the work of the republic's industrial enterprises. An operational group in Moscow is implementing the coordination of material and technical provision and the organization of supplies to the republic. Tens of thousands of heated tents and the first consignments of warm clothing and blankets have been dispatched to Armenia in the last 24 hours. Military and civilian transport aircraft have been put into operation widely to deliver the cargoes.

Looting in Leninakan

PM1212173088 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Dec 88 First Edition p 6

[Special correspondent Colonel P. Studenikin report "from the disaster area": "Into the Mountains in Response to the Alarm"]

[Excerpts] It has always been thus: The first to come to the assistance of the victims of natural disasters are the servicemen. That is what has happened now in Armenia, which has suffered an unprecedented disaster.

...Night. We have just returned to the hotel. After 2 days on the road. The mind refuses to grasp the full scale of the disaster or evaluate the depth of the tragedy.

Before our eyes are "fragments" of this tragedy: Streams of vehicles in both directions in the devastated streets, a whole army of volunteer traffic controllers trying to impose order on the roads. On the roofs of cars and in their open trunks are fragments of household belongings and... coffins. To right and left are collapsed, disintegrated buildings. And camp fires where survivors huddle. The 4th day after the disaster...

Strict military order had yet to be imposed on the roads, entry into the cities was still open to everyone. Therefore tens of thousands of people from neighboring districts and even republics were hastening here to look for relatives, friends, and acquaintances. Others brought bread, water, clothing.

It took us about 4 hours to get from the entrance to Leninakan to the city center, Lenin Square, not far from where the leadership headquarters has been set up in a surviving old building. It was striking that in this traffic chaos people were showing exceptional patience.

Let me stress particularly: For the first 3 days a special situation [osoboye polozheniye] was not imposed in the city. It was not necessary, because order was maintained—no looting or hooliganism was recorded. The first such cases took place on this very night, the fourth: Four unidentified people tried to rob a jewelry store, thefts from apartments began, there was one killing... Then the armed soldiers came out into the streets in helmets and flak jackets. I am writing about this because some people, mainly newcomers, expressed dissatisfaction: "The curfew again!"

It is impossible to convey in words an accurate picture of the ravaged city by night: impenetrable darkness, dead ruins against which the dark figures of people who have abandoned everything appear from time to time. It is all like the well-known movie about what it would be like after a nuclear attack. [passage omitted]

...In the daytime (it was the 5th day after the disaster) we set off for Spitak. On the roads the traffic was controlled by reinforced patrols of soldiers. The number of vehicles in the city has fallen markedly, but it is still difficult to drive out of the city. Rescue operations are under way everywhere.

We leave the radio on all the time: France, Cuba, India, the United States—the whole world has responded to the Armenian people's grief. Columns of vehicles come toward us in a constant stream—civilian and military: excavators and bulldozers, field kitchens and cranes, buses... We identify them by the license plates: They are from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Saratov, Krasnodar... It seems the whole country has hurried here to help poor Armenia.

At the crossroads and intersections, soldiers control this stream—wearing helmets and flak jackets.

At the cemetery as you leave the city, there are dozens of funeral processions. The Armenian land is weeping, groaning with grief.

Rescuers 'Not Managing', Need Help

LD0912220588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by special correspondents A. Tikhomirov and Yu. Prokofyev from Armenia—recorded]

[Excerpt] The only thing that has changed in the disaster areas since yesterday is perhaps that the first dozens of lifting cranes have arrived to clear the debris. But so far there is only light equipment, while what is needed is equipment capable of raising girders, fragments of walls and celings, and dismantling what used to be multistorey buildings which suddenly, in a brief instant, collapsed like a house of cards. Such equipment is today already beginning to arrive on Army Il-78's by air. The railway has been destroyed. But how soon it will be brought here, to the site of the disaster, is literally a matter of life and death. [video shows equipment and rescuers working on the smoking site of a ruined building. Men pass large stones from hand to hand. Man speaking amid rubble]

[Unidentified man] This was my brother's apartment. He was a factory director. He came home for his break, and remained here. The children were here too: the elder daughter and younger daughter. And the father has just been taken from this entrance-way [points to smoking rubble] They have taken him away for burial. I do not know; perhaps they've already burned up here, because we have not been able to put out the fire for how many days now. This is a terrible misfortune.

[Tikhomirov] There is so much misfortune that if its magnitude could be expressed in material form it would no doubt be capable of raising the ruins and bringing the dead to life.

More than 2 days have passed, but voices can still be heard from under the shattered residential buildings, schools and shops. Life still flickers in places there, and hope still flickers among the thousands and thousands of rescue workers, relatives, and friends. Rescuers appear to be just a few centimetres from getting people out, bringing them up, and touching them, but they are overcome with tremendous despair when it turns out that they cannot get hold of a pick or even a simple oxyacetylene torch. [video shows military and civilian rescue workers focusing their attention on holes in the rubble]

[Rescue worker 1] A boy was taken out alive from this kindergarten here.

[Rescue worker 2] From the second floor. We're looking for three boys.

[Rescue worker 1] And we got out two more children from nearby. We got them out with the father, who is just injured. The boys were lucky, they were squeezed into a corner.

[Rescue worker 2] A lot of help is needed.

[Rescue worker 1] People are being rescued throughout this sector. I have only been working in this sector. Perhaps it is the same everywhere, I don't know.

[Rescue worker 2] We're not managing - we go from one spot to another. We're not managing. We need a very great deal of help.

[Tikhomirov] [video switches to aerial shots of devastated town] This is the town of Spitak. Better now to say "it was." This is what the deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers of all the union republics saw today. They arrived in Armenia overnight. Orders and instructions are now going out of Yerevan by telephone in the different union languages. Help has already started heading for Armenia. Neighboring Georgians were the first to arrive. [passage omitted]

Lack of Organized Rescue Work

LD1212065188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Our special correspondents, Yuriy Korotkov and Karyun Khomaryan, report from Yerevan:

[Begin recording] [Korotkov] Today is already the 5th day that rescue work has gone on in the stricken areas of Armenia. The blows of the earthquake were so powerful that native residents of Leninakan cannot recognize their home town today. Practically no buildings have survivied in Spitak. Kirovakan, Stepanavan, and a whole series of villages in the republic's northern rayons have suffered gravely. The initial period was incredibly difficult as the scale of what had happened was being realized and assessed. Sadly, deliveries of cranes, freight, and needed machinery has been made complex by the lack of

precise control of road traffic and the necessary organization of rescue work. Thousands of volunteers from Yerevan and other cities are in the country and experts from several countries are clearing the debris, saving people, bringing out the injured, and sharing their blood to save lives.

[Khomaryan] There is a great deal of work, an unimaginable amount. At the headquarters of the Spitak rayon party committee, where a large team from the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee is currently at work, we were told that almost half of the city's population is still under the rubble. Last night, again, dead and living were both pulled from the debris. Sadly, there are very few left alive, and every day there are fewer.

It is extremely hard to carry out the rescue work. There are no communications, electricity, or heavy cranes. The streets are blocked by vehicles and people. The only relatively free section is the city stadium. It is the landing field for the helicopters. The helicopters are working with precision. Practically every minute one lands or takes off. The injured and maimed are being brought in from the mountain villages where rescue work has also begun. From Yerevan, medicine and food were sent and new volunteer detachments come to clear the debris. There are replacements for the doctors who have been working practically non-stop here since the 1st day of the tragedy. Here at the stadium doctors have pitched their tents and provide first aid and, if need be, perform emergency operations. The doctors are working selflessly. This was noted by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, who was here yesterday. [end recording]

Problems in Relief Efforts Noted

PM1112182588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Dec 88 Morning Edition pp 1, 6

[Report by special correspondents S. Bablumyan, M. Krushinskiy, and A. Protsenko: "Disaster Zone"]

[Excerpts] Leninakan—M.S. Gorbachev flew into Armenia Saturday morning. We journalists of the middle generation have witnessed many tours of the country by top leaders. Today's visit by the head of the party and the state to a much-suffering region is unlike anything we have seen before. In the face of terrible grief, before the ruins of cities and settlements, by the remains of tens of thousands of victims, we are all primarily people. And we are all equal in this....

The leaders of Armenia who met M.S. Gorbachev and joined him on his tour saw before them, above all, a man who has come to help the Armenian people in a grave hour of trials, to help them to the full extent of his abilities and his tremendous authority.

We have just returned from Leninakan. We spent the night there for the second time in the past 3 days. [passage omitted]

We testify that people are sleeping either in the open, beside bonfires or in cars and buses. Fortunately, the frosts have not yet come to this region, although fingers already become numb without gloves at night. As for all essential products—food, drinking water, warm clothing, footwear, linen, and even gasoline—these are continuously being brought to the city, around the clock, and are being distributed freely to people in places that everyone knows about. It is even possible to get hold of a portable stove.

Who is making the delivery? The entire people. Believe us, this is not just a phrase. Of course, there is a staff which passes on information about requirements to somewhere "up there," and there is a harmonious and well-organized supply system. But in addition there is the personal, group, and collective initiative of millions of people who do not need any orders to guide them—rather the reverse: They need regulating and restraining somewhat, so that chaos does not ensue.

In one of Leninakan's former squares we saw boxes which had just been taken out of a van which had driven up: bread and bottled mineral water. Whoever needed it came up and took it. We recalled how the day before a helicopter with injured people from the disaster zone had been met at Yerevan airport; ambulances rushed off with their sirens wailing and blue lights revolving, and a Volga checkerboard taxi suddenly drove up to the steps; the entire back seat and trunk were full of "bread" boxes to be sent "there." We asked the driver who the sender was. He shrugged his shoulders in bewilderment: What does "who" mean? People...

And another observation: Fear is departing, and people have stopped being afraid of walls which are still standing.... The night before last everyone had instinctively kept far from the edges of streets and "huddled" into open spaces. Now this has ended. Cold fury has squeezed out fear. Although during Friday alone approximately 150 underground tremors were recorded in Leninakan, which fortunately did not cause new destruction.

Let us return, however, to the supply of essentials to the city. Is there really plenty of everything?

Unfortunately not. There is a shortage of what is, perhaps, most important—powerful lifting equipment. Much debris is still being cleared by hand, and fragments are being passed from hand to hand, along living chains... How many cubic kilometers of broken stone can be passed through the riddle of human hands?!

Yes, all the orders have been given, and all measures seem to have been taken, but our "docking units," as it were, are not working absolutely everywhere: Some places heavy AN transport aircraft languish for hours during unloading, some places equipment gets stuck in traffic jams.... Some 130 lifting cranes on 168 "projects" (is this word applicable to mountains of debris?) are impermissibly few. Particularly if you take account of

the fact that in some places even two or three cranes are not enough. Not to mention powerful helicopter-cranes and elementary army lighting devices with small diesel motors: Bonfires and car headlights are not the best illumination for work on the debris.

It is precisely the atmosphere of furious efficiency which has set in at the scene of the tragedy that enables us to speak plainly about what are customarily called "bottlenecks." There must not be any! [passage omitted]

"We have never before seen such a thing!" Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Leroy of the French Air Force exclaimed on arriving in Leninakan with a group of French military rescue workers.

Any project has to be done professionally. This axiom, which, alas, is frequently present in our everyday conversations only as a theoretical premise, has come to light with all-exposing clarity here in the disaster zone.

We have already written of the fact that during the first hours after the earthquake many of those buried under the debris were rescued by their relatives, by work comrades, or by volunteers among the local residents. But far more remained blocked in, covered, and immured beneath the ruins. What was needed to dig them out was not only equipment but also specialists—people who know how and where to seek and how to make passageways to those awaiting help.

Such specialists have begun arriving in Leninakan. Mine rescue workers from Donetsk have now been working for over 24 hours virtually without rest to dismantle the ruins of the stocking factory—and legends about their professional work are already taking shape. The first group of rescue workers from France arrived here last night.

In the same staff, with the help of an interpreter, Lt Col Pierre Leroy was reaching agreement on where and how his people would work. He explained:

"We have 13 trained dogs. They know how to find places where people are buried alive. There are special devices for the directional monitoring of sounds in the debris. If we find people alive, we sink a narrow shaft, lower medical supplies, water, and food down it, and then start dismantling the obstruction."

We asked the lieutenant colonel a question: What experience do the French rescue workers have, how long do they intend to work here, and—most importantly—how long, in their opinion, can people stay alive under the ruins?

The replies were of military clarity: They have experience in bombed-out Beirut and the earthquake in Mexico. They have had to work in Egypt, Germany, and France. The length of their stay depends on the government. They are prepared to work just as long as there is any hope. The Mexican experience shows that people can be found alive even after 10 days.

Pierre Leroy was in a very great hurry. He rushed after Spartak Petrosyan, first secretary of Shirakskiy party raykom: The French 84-man group was taking up position in the yard of the raykom building and would work next door, at the No 9 School. On the way someone made an offer through the interpreter: "Perhaps the rescuers need feeding first?" The hitherto unflappable lieutenant colonel blew up: Rapping out some sentence, he vigorously pointed beneath his feet.

"What did he say?"

"He said: 'They have not yet eaten down there!'"

The latest report: The French have already managed to rescue more than 60 people.

...The school had five floors. More accurately, there were two buildings, an old one and a new one. The old one still stands—the new one collapsed. We did not know how many children and adults remained beneath it. We only knew that 988 children studied in both buildings during the first shift.

Work continued here for 60 hours. People did what they could. They took away fragments layer by layer and removed the bent roofing sheets, working their way lower and lower. They managed to dig out 300 teachers and children. Alas, few of them were alive.

The French rescuers were greeted as the last hope. A dog was the first to go in. The large black German shepherd circled the place where digging had just been taking place, then hurriedly ran to a gap between crookedly hanging roofing sheets, returned... and suddenly lay down. Was it possible?

Special wrecking bars were driven into the sheets. An order rang out, translated from French into Russian, and from Russian into Armenian: "At my signal stop all work and don't move or speak!"

At the very spot where the dog lay a directional microphone was set up, and a French soldier took off his helmet and put on his headphones.

"Attention! Attention!"

A few sharp blows with a wrecking bar—and everyone fell silent. If the distance was not great, the apparatus would hear even the quickened thumping of a heart...

The Frenchman shook his head: No one alive here...

The instrument was moved to a new place, and again wrecking bars were driven in: "Attention!" Again nothing...

Then it became clear why the dog had indicated precisely that spot: An entire class was buried beneath the sheets...

The Frenchmen continued the search. They set up a mobile power plant and flooded the entire site of the former school with light. And everyone—French and Armenian—stood together in a row, passing heavy tufa blocks from hand to hand, like buckets at a fire, together grasped ropes and pulled out more sheets...

The second group of French rescue workers worked on the ruins of a long, nine-story building.... Even if they found just one person alive, their efforts would not have been in vain. But Pierre Leroy was hoping for more. For so far just 3 of the 10 days measured out by him had passed.... And we thought: If they had come earlier... If we ourselves had had special rescue teams, equipped and trained like them....

We could not speak of this during the very first days. But we must not postpone the telling of what was and was not, what was lacking in Leninakan during these sorrowful days. We have to say that real organization and good professionalism are lacking. Armenia has put up tens of thousands of volunteers to rescue people, but because of someone's inefficiency aircraft are standing at airports still loaded with the most essential equipment.... [passage omitted]

Construction Flaws in Area Noted

PM1112191588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Dec 88 First Edition p 8

[Report from Armenia by special correspondents N. Krivomazov, A. Sarkisyan, and V. Khatuntsev: "Linked by Pain"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reliability is a characteristic of any type of work which must be tested sooner or later without fail. Reliability, when applied to the rescue operations with regard to eliminating the aftermath of the earthquake, is a trebly necessary quality. Here we are obliged to say that there were many difficulties during the 1st 3 days. There was an acute shortage of heavy cranes, mobile power plants, tents, and searchlights. There were even interruptions in the supply of hot food.

Of course, the elements struck a terrible blow. Yet the lessons of past disasters should have taught us something!

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission has defined specific operational measures for the speediest removal of obstructions, for rescuing people, and for rebuilding the devastated cities.

In the opinion of the newspaper THE GUARDIAN, the energy released by this earthquake was equivalent to an explosion of 100 nuclear bombs, and when "the dust settles" from this tragic event it could well turn out that this disaster is the biggest in the USSR's entire history. Soviet seismologists have specified when the last such disaster occurred—in the 11th century, when Ani, Armenia's ancient capital, perished.

Essentially everything that was built during the "stagnation" years has collapsed. But perhaps it could not have failed to collapse? Geophysicists repeatedly warned the construction workers of the high seismicity of northwest Armenia—the Caucasus has not yet stopped growing. But five- and nine-story buildings doggedly grew and clambered into the mountains. All under the slogan of the "economical economy." Here it is, this "economy": In one panel fragment of concrete you cannot make out whether there is more sand or cement. Therefore, when people say that everything built during the "stagnation" has collapsed, they begin to ask one another: "Why then has what Maduyan and other conscientious construction workers built not collapsed?" Now is probably the very time also to answer these questions: How many criminal cases were instituted against slipshod construction workers during those years and what was the outcome of them? Who specifically closed their eyes to the promptings of seismologists here and in other regions?

There is a French flag on the building of Leninakan's former Shirakskiy party raykom. Mine rescue workers, firemen, and physicians are living there. In the yard there are a dozen dogs trained to find people buried under ruins. Doctor Michel Fabre, who is known as a specialist on disasters, evaluates highly the work of mine rescue workers from Donetsk and Rostov. His last trip abroad was to blood-stained Mexico City in 1985. He believes that the Soviet authorities are faced with a problem which no country has yet succeeded in resolving: how to dismantle the ruins of buildings quickly and carefully enough to rescue those buried alive? Earthquakes in recent years have shown that people beneath ruins can remain alive for up to 2-3 weeks.

Foreigners are equipped with very sensitive infrared cameras which help to find people underground. They have vibration and sound detectors. A similar team from Britain worked in Mexico and in the ruins of El Salvador in 1986. The team which has come to Armenia is headed by Norman Rowndell, a 60-year-old inspector in the British Home Office.

Specialists, equipment, trained dogs—we too have all this. But instead of acting like a clenched fist we sometimes wave an open palm. Dogs "come" under one department, electronic devices under another, and experts under yet another. How are they to be united into a single whole? We need a group which will react quickly and immediately to such disasters. And again: Why do we have so few of our own professionals in this doleful sector? The French set up a field power plant in a matter

of minutes, produced light, and dispersed among the ruins without delay. But we have a dozen "observers" for every worker, and they give advice instead of dismantling debris.

It is time to speak and think about all this. Both superefficiency and precision are needed, as N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission, constantly reminds us.

Here is an example. During the first days there was a particular need here for powerful lifting cranes to dismantle the ruins. Military and civilian airmen were given a mission: Forty heavy aircraft must make 80 flights a day. To deliver 80 cranes. There were more flights, but confusion arose and they did not know what must be transported first. Only a few of the so essential cranes were delivered. There are hundreds here now. But seconds and hours—lives—were lost. Every hour means a life, USSR Health Minister Ye. Chazov said.

It is bitter to speak of this, but it has to be said. One aircraft containing food took 5 hours to unload, holding up the airlift. Much at the airport has changed only thanks to Liparit Amayakyan, a pilot from Krasnodar, who assumed command of the first post—the control post. Congestions began to clear. At the decision of the government commission B. Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has assumed temporary leadership of all life in Leninakan. He has assumed such responsibility before—in Chernobyl.

In ordinary existence the "trifles of life" are perceived as an annoying misunderstanding. In extraordinary circumstances any mistake, even the smallest one, puts human life in the balance. The government commission is working around the clock. The harmonious work of the medical service is to be noted. Every instant there is a new maneuver. Now it has been decided, for example, to evacuate the children from here. But what mother would agree to give up her child after such a tragedy? And now this decision: The children are to be evacuated only with their mothers. New schools, new hospitals, and kindergartens will certainly not appear before the new year. Women and children must be taken to the best sanatoriums. "The men must remain," M.S. Gorbachev emphasized in Leninakan.

MVD Keeps Crimes 'Under Control'

PM1212114988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed roundup of reports on aftermath of Armenian earthquake under the heading "Our Common Pain"]

[Excerpts] Saturday. A routine working day for the editorial office.... In fact, not so routine. Since the terrible disaster in Armenia, IZVESTIYA, like the other central publications, has become a kind of headquarters which is not simply concerned with gathering information from all over the country and the world. People are telephoning the editorial office in an attempt to find out what has happened to their loved ones and asking a multitude of questions concerning people's personal contribution to helping the victims. We are answering their questions and giving advice. We are also making our own telephone calls and going there ourselves to find out more.... [passage omitted]

1300 hours. As usual, we call I. Denisov, USSR first deputy health minister, on the "hotline."

"So far more than 7,000 people have been taken to hospitals from the earthquake regions, and more than 100 of those have died from burns and other injuries. Armenia is receiving a constant supply of blood and blood substitutes. A total of 5,000 beds have been prepared in hospitals and clinics in all the republics to receive the injured. The first 15 seriously wounded have been taken to the capital today on special flights...."

Some readers are concerned to find out whether incidents of looting and other crimes in the disaster areas have been eliminated? We telephoned the USSR MVD. The answer: There have been no such incidents. The protection of citizens' property left intact and of national economic installations is under control. As far as conflicts based on interethnic relations are concerned—none has been reported anywhere in Armenia. [passage omitted]

World Leaders Express Condolences to USSR

Soviet Embassies Visited

LD1112114988 Moscow TASS in English 1103 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—By TASS correspondents:

Poland's party and government leadership was shocked together with the Soviet people by the tragedy and deprivations which befell the people of Armenia as a result of the natural calamity. These words opened an entry in the book of condolences by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mieczyslaw Rakowski during their visit to the Soviet Embassy.

Expressing on behalf of the Polish people the feelings of deep sorrow to the CPSU and the Soviet state, authorities and all residents of Armenia in connection with the death of tens of thousands of people, they stressed that the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union can always count on the friendship and cooperation of Poland.

The Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang was visited by Yi Kun-mo, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, other party and state leaders. On behalf of the Korean Workers' Party, the DPRK leadership and the

Korean people they asked to convey to the CPSU, the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people profound condolences over the earthquake in Armenia.

The Soviet Embassy in Kabul was visited by Afghan President Najibullah, Prime Minister Muhammad Hasin Sharq and other statesmen. They expressed condolences over the tragedy which hit Soviet Armenia.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe sent a cable to Mikhail Gorbachev over the earthquake in Armenia. The cable stresses that people in Zimbabwe learned with regret about the tragedy in Armenia. On behalf of the ruling party, government and the entire Zimbabwean people Robert Mugabe expressed the deepest condolences to the Soviet leadership, the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the relatives of the dead. To render assistance to the victims of the quake a special account was opened at one of the Zimbabwean banks for donations from private people and mass organisations.

In connection with nationwide mourning declared in the Soviet Union, the Soviet Embassy in Algiers was visited by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah. He expressed profound condolences to the people and Government of the USSR over the devastating earthquake that hit Soviet Armenia. Kasdi Merbah paid tribute to the memory of the victims. He said the Algerian Government sent a team of experienced rescue workers and medical personnel, as well as tents and medical supplies for the quake victims.

Sri Lanka's Justice Minister Paul Perera visited the Soviet Embassy to express condolences on behalf of the government over the high death toll in the earthquake in Armenia. The embassy was also visited by senior officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Sri Lanka's communist and socialist parties, as well as other parties and mass organisations of the country.

Yugoslavia sent 100 million dinars worth of medical supplies and equipment for the earthquake relief effort. The Yugoslav Government pledged 5 billion dinars worth of aid to this Soviet republic. The Red Cross societies in Yugoslav republics and autonomous territories and labour collectives are raising funds for the rescue effort in Armenia. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina pledged more than one million dinars.

The authorities in the city of Skoplje, which was hit by an earthquake in 1963, decided to send to Armenia drugs, sanitary materials and doctors. A team of specialists from the Skoplje Institute specialising in construction in seismically active regions is ready to go to Armenia.

Chairman of the Communist Party of Austria Franz Muhri sent a cable which expressed on behalf of the Austrian communists deep condolences to the Armenian people over the tragic consequences of the earthquake. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria urged all members of the party and all Austrians to continue raising funds for aid to the quake victims.

A rescue team from the Austrian Red Cross organisation and a group of mountain rescue workers with search dogs left for Yerevan yesterday. Twenty thousand ampules with blood substitute used for treating heavy injuries were sent to Armenia. A decision was taken to send 90 servicemen equipped with sophisticated search equipment, who took part in clearing the aftermath of an earthquake in southern Tyrol in 1980.

Condolence Messages Sent

LD1012174888 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—By TASS correspondents:

Messages of condolences and material aid are coming to the Soviet Union from many countries of the world, following a disasterous earthquake in Soviet Armenia, which brought vast destructions and huge loss of life.

Canada's Prime Minister Brian Malroney has stated in his message that the Canadian government donated through the Red Cross 500,000 dollars as relief to earthquake victims in Armenia and for restoration of devasted towns and settlements. Canada's Foreign Minister Joseph Clark has offered profound condolences to the USSR Embassy in Canada in connection with the natural calamity in Armenia and reported the Canadian Government's readiness to provide a transport plane and render other assistance, if asked for.

The Council of Ministers of Spain at its meeting has taken the decision to render material aid to earthquake victims in Soviet Armenia. The Spanish Government wil send rugs, tents and medicines to a total sum of 16 million peseta. Chairman of the Government of Spain Felipe Gonzalez has sent Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Ryzhkov a message, offering profound condolences in connection with "The tragic consequences of the earthquake in Armenia".

President of Ecuador Rodrigo Borja Cevallos has sent a mesage of condolences to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev in connection with the disasterous earthquake in the Armenia SSR, which killed tens of thousands of people. The president of Ecuador with pain in his heart expresses compassion for numerous victims and immense destructions, caused by the earthquake.

"I would be glad to do my best to help the Soviet people hit by an earthquake in Armenia," said well known American physician Robert Peter Gale. In the difficult days of the Chernobyl accident he was one of the first to extend a helping hand, rescuing the lives of many people

who were irradiated. In an interview to the NBC television company he stated that he had already notified the USSR Embassy in the United States that he would be ready to immediately go to the Soviet Union, if his aid is required.

President of Greece Khristos Sartzetakis has sent a message to the Soviet leadership, offering profound compassion for the numerous earthquake victims in Armenia. The Athens Municipal Council announced it would send 3,000 blankets to Armenia. The Athens medical association stated its intention to send doctors and medicines to the earthquake-hit areas.

President of Brazil Jose Sarney in a message to Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed "profound grief and solidarity with the Government and the people of the Soviet Union in connection with the tragedy which hit the Armenian Republic". Foreign Minister of Brazil Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre also sent a message of condolences to the foreign minister of the USSR.

With American citizens and organisations expressing the desire to give aid to Soviet Armenia, the USSR Emmbassy in Washington announced the formation of a special fund and the opening of an account in the Riggs National Bank, one of the biggest banks in Washington, for individuals and organisations to be able to remit donations. It has been reported that negotiations are under way on the U.S. Government's assistance in eliminating the consequences of the natural calamity. At a briefing, held at the embassy, it was stated that the first planes with medicines, medical equipment and other necessary materials will fly directly to Yerevan from the United States in the next few days. An accord has also been reached to send to calamity areas groups of American earthquake rescue specialists.

We are maintaining a close contact with the Soviet side, said a representative of the U.S. Department of State on Friday at a briefing, answering Journalists' questions about USSR-USA negotiations on American aid to Armenia. We shall see to it that the American side should bring as much use as possible, he underlined.

On Friday Cuba's leader Fidel Castro donated blood so as to make his personal contribution to the Cuban people's assistance to the people of Armenia, hit by a very strong earthquake. Talking to journalists at the blood transfusion centre in Havana's district of Marianao, he said that a new load of blood and a field hospital would be sent from Havana aboard a plane of the Cuban air company Cubana de Aviacion in the next few days. It will be followed by a plane with a special team of Cuban doctors with a wealth of experience of work in natural calamity conditions. A team of Cuban builders will be sent to the natural calamity area soon.

Rendering urgent aid to the Soviet people at a time of a disastrous natural calamity is Cuba's moral and humane duty, said Fidel Castro.

A message of condolences in connection with the earthquake in Soviet Armenia has been sent to Mikhail Gorbachev and Nikolay Ryzhkov today by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Social Party 'Ali Salim al-bid, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and Prime Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. On behalf of the Yemen Socialist Party, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the Government of Democratic Yemen and the Yemeni people they have offered condolences to the Soviet people and the CPSU.

President of Mexico Carlos Salinas de Gortari has offered to the Soviet leadership condolences in connection with the earthquake in Armenia. I have been deeply grieved by the dimensions of the natural calamity which hit Armenia, he says in his message to Mikhail Gorbachev. On behalf of the people and the Government of Mexico I ask you to convey the most profound condolences to all the earthquake victims. Mexico's Foreign Minister Fernando Solan Morales sent a similar message to the USSR foreign minister.

The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Peru's Congress at separate meetings unanimously approved of special resolutions in connection with the disastrous earthquake on Armenia's territory. On behalf of the Peruvian people, says the resolution of the Upper Chamber of Peru's Congress, the Senate of the Republic of Peru offers the most sincere condolences and fraternal solidarity to the Governments of the USSR and the Armenian SSR and all peoples of the Soviet Union. Solidarity of all peoples of the world is needed in these trying days, the Chamber of Deputies stresses in its resolution.

India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has taken the decision to form a committee to collect in India voluntary donations for relief to earthquake victims in Armenia. Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh has been appointed the organizer of the committee.

The Danish Government has allocated two million krone as relief to the earthquake victims in Armenia. The People's Church Aid Organisation and the Danish Red Cross sent for the purpose respectively 100 thousand and 250 thousand krone. Preparations have begun to send to the catastrophe area the first loads of antibiotics, blood plasma, blood transfusion equipment, instruments and appliances for operations. Denmark's Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen has said that in case of need Denmark is ready to consider allocating additional sums of money.

Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today instructed the Foreign Ministry to take every measure to

render assistance to the victims of the devastating earthquake in Armenia. The Japanese Government has notified the Soviet Union of its readiness to send specialists and material aid, the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency reports.

Portugal's President Mario Soares has sent to Mikhail Gorbachev a message of condolences in connection with the tragedy that hit the Armenian people. The president offered sincere sympathy with the families of the victims.

Unrest Continues in Armenia, Azerbaijan

Soldiers Break Up Rally

AU1112144588 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, Dec 11 (AFP)—Soldiers forcibly broke up an Armenian nationalist rally in Yerevan, the capital of earthquake-stricken Armenia, on Sunday, clubbing women and children and injuring several people, Armenian dissident sources said.

Aleksandr Arzumanyan, a correspondent of the dissident newssheet EXPRESS KRONIKA, said the soldiers had charged a rally in solidarity with five Armenian nationalists arrested on Saturday.

The wife of a leading Armenian nationalist, Ambartsum Galstyan, said several demonstrators were injured, adding that her husband and four other members of the nationalist Karabakh committee were arrested at the rally.

This takes the number of arrests among the 11-member Karabakh committee which has spearheaded Armenia's campaign for the re-incorporation of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian territory annexed to Azerbaijan under Stalin, to 10.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov has confirmed the arrest of several Armenian nationalists during "nationalist protests."

Earlier reports from nationalist sources, however, had said Saturday's arrests were related to collecting food and clothes for earthquake victims on Saturday.

According to the EXPRESS KRONIKA correspondent, all but one of the five Karabakh committee members arrested on Saturday were sentenced to 30 days in jail. Acot Manachuryan, a member of the regional supreme soviet, or parliament, who was among those detained, was not sent to jail.

Mrs. Galstyan was unable to confirm the report.

Mr. Gerasimov told Britain's Independent Television Network on Sunday that the nationalists on Saturday had been protesting the adoption of Armenian orphans by families in other Soviet republics in the aftermath of Wednesday's earthquake.

Mrs. Galstyan said Armenians were trying to gather in Yerevan streets but riot police equipped with armoured cars was dispersing the crowds. The situation in Yerevan was "very tense", she added.

A curfew was declared in Armenia on November 24, and later cut by two hours.

An official toll put the number of dead at 45,000, with 12,000 injured and half a million people left homeless after the earthquake.

Galstyan, Others Not Arrested

AU1112151588 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, Dec 11 (AFP)—Soldiers forcibly broke up an Armenian nationalist rally Sunday in Yerevan, the capital of earthquake-stricken Armenia, clubbing women and children and injuring several people, Armenian dissident sources reached by telephone said.

Aleksandr Arzumanyan, a correspondent of the dissident newspaper EXPRESS KRONIKA, said the soldiers had charged a rally called to protest the arrest Saturday of five Armenian nationalists at the Writers' Union building, where they were organizing relief efforts. [passage omitted]

It was the first time members of the committee, named after an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan that seeks to be reattached to Armenia, were arrested since a wave of ethnic strife struck the region several months ago. [passage omitted]

Ambarstum Galstyan, a member of the Karabakh committee, said several persons were injured in the Yerevan demonstration. He said demonstrators were still trying to regroup but were being dispersed by soldiers of the Soviet Interior Ministry backed by armored vehicles.

His wife had said earlier that he and four other members of the committee had been arrested, but that report proved untrue. [passage omitted]

Paper Cited on Demonstration

NC1212091088 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0525 GMT 12 Dec 88

[From the review of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN]

[Text] On its fourth page the newspaper carries a report (?citing) the military commandant and the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs, which informs us that on 11 December (?certain) residents in Yerevan violated the

curfew and organized a [words indistinct] demanding that the members of the so-called Karabakh committee and [word indistinct]—Agopyan, Araksyan, Vartanyan, Gevorkyan, Manukyan, and [word indistinct] Petrosyan—who were arrested [words indistinct] situation (?be released). The demonstrators were (?stopped) in Oktemberyan and [name indistinct] (?streets) by military subdivisions and the militia.

The military commandant and the Ministry of Internal Affairs appeal to the residents of Yerevan and other cities to observe the curfew hours and not go give in to provocations and to the inflamatory calls by the Karabakh committee's [word indistinct], to (?closely) guard law and order, and to display (?wisdom) and high responsibility at these difficult times for our republic's people.

Azerbaijani Youth Celebrate Quake

AU0912174188 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, Dec 9 (AFP)—Groups of Azeri youths celebrated in the streets of their capital Baku on the news that northern Armenia had been devastated by an earthquake, eyewitnesses told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Friday.

"Masses of young blockheads were in Baku's main streets late Wednesday, welcoming what they think is Allah's punishment for those who killed and chased their Azeri brothers from Armenia," a Ukrainian resident of Baku said by telephone.

Armenian sources confirmed the reports, adding that revelers even ignored a curfew declared in the wake of recent inter-ethnic rioting. Similar reports arrived here from Kirovabad, Azerbaijan's second city, where anti-Armenian pogroms started on November 21.

An official spokesman, questioned at a press briefing here, acknowledged that there may have been "some isolated incidents" such as reported by the sources.

Interior Ministry aide Vladimir Dubiniak added at the same briefing that "everything is calm in Baku on Friday". Companies were working normally. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijanis To Surrender Arms

NC0912192588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The following is AZERINFORM's information:

The situation has recently been normalizing in the republic. Nevertheless, individual acts of antisocial behavior and lawlessness, carried out by persons who are trying to disrupt stability, have been recorded. These activities involved the use of firearms [word indistinct].

Regarding this state of affairs, the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers has decided to ban the possession of arms outdoors until a special order is issued. In accordance with this decision and in conformity with the orders of the military commandant of the Baku City Special District, and in an attempt to ensure the security of the citizens, the people of the republic are asked to temporarily surrender their firearms within 3 days.

With a view to (?organizing) the surrender of arms, the field inspectors in Baku city have been instructed to visit the houses as of today to receive the arms from their owners. A special [word indistinct] will be given in return. This procedure will be executed by the internal affairs organs and military commissariats in the republic's rayons.

The procedure of returning the arms to their owners will be explained on the spot.

Baku Continues 'To Normalize'

NC0912185988 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, issued on 8 December]

[Text] The situation in the city continued to normalize yesterday. Industry and transportation are operating at full capacity. The effort to prevent antisocial developments at the level of interethnic relations is being strengthened. Stronger measures are being taken against individuals who encourage the violation of law and order and who spread instigating rumors with a view to disrupting stability. At the same time, individual acts of lawlessness have been recorded in the city, with five apartments having been set on fire.

Aslanov, who was born in 1959 and who works at the construction administration No 21, which is affiliated with the main administration for construction in Baku; Dzhafarova, who was born in 1952 and who is a sovkhoz worker in [name indistinct]; Nadzhabova, who was born in 1965 and whose place of residence and occupation are unknown; Askerov, who was born in 1977 and who is a student at school No 280; and Aliyeva, who was born in 1968 and who works at shoe factory No 1, were arrested when they tried to burglarize apartments.

Askerov's case was transferred to the commission which deals with the affairs of those [words indistinct]. Criminal proceedings are being instituted against the rest.

During the night 306 people were detained and 27 cars were impounded for violating the imposed curfew. Fourteen individuals were imprisoned, including one who used a cold [soguk] weapon against one of his militia colleagues.

The situation is being controlled everywhere.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Baku 'Calm' 11 December

LD1112185288 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Announcement by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of Baku City Special District]

[Text] The situation in the city is calm. On the off-day most enterprises have been working. Instead of the 49 enterprises scheduled, 152 have been working. Together with internal affairs bodies and the procurator's office, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and military subunits are eliminating the aftermath of the mass disturbances on 5 December 1988. Efforts are being made to discover the organizers of the violations of public order.

During the night of 10 December the internal affairs bodies of the city discovered on the premises of the Detskiy Mir supermarket at 5 Shaumyan St, five home-made small-calibre smooth-bore weapons. On the same night citizens Kuliyev and Gaybov, of the "26 Baky Commissars" district, were detained for being connected to this affair. Moreover, in Gaybov's apartment and the basement of the supermarket six other firearms were found and confiscated. Investigations are under way. At 0020 hours on 11 December at Post No 6 in Salyan District, citizen Aliyev, in a private Zhiguli car registered as U-04-33-AG, failed to obey the command of the curfew patrol. Weapons were used. The criminal was captured after being wounded. An investigation is under way. For violation of the curfew and passport laws 225 persons have been detained, along with 15 cars, and 9 persons have been arrested. Eighteen firearms have been confiscated.

I would like to notify citizens that petitions and complaints of unlawful dismissal from enterprises and violation of law and order should be addressed by telephone to 38-35-77.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of Baku City Special District

Communique on Travel Passes

LD1212113588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0300 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Communique by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of Baku City Special District]

[Text] I have adopted a decision on the regulations permitting citizens of other cities to enter Baku for the purpose of selling goods in kolkhoz markets. I have given the relevant instructions to the city's external protection posts. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that rayon residents who want to bring agricultural produce to sell in kolkhoz markets must have a certificate from the rayispolkom where they live concerning the purpose of their visit. People coming to the city on the basis of these certificates will be registered at the protection posts. This document constitutes a pass to move about the city from 0500 to 2200 daily. The regulations concerning the transportation of goods by car will be implemented in accordance with my 11 December 1988 appeal. One may enter the city only through the check and registration points. While remaining within Baku city limits, the curfew must be (complied with) at all times.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Communists 'Brought to Account' on Disturbances

NC0912155788 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 9 Dec 88

[From the republican press review]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Communist Party's gorkoms and primary party organizations have brought to account the Communists who participated in the disturbances or who allowed the incidents to occur.

The republic's Academy of Sciences Presidium and a number of its departments did not take effective measures to guarantee normal work in the work collectives.

The question of the responsibility of the leading and scientific workers in the participation of a number of their colleagues in unauthorized meetings and marches and in other illegal activities was examined.

The press published detailed reports on all this today.

Artist on Gorbachev Meeting With Officials

NC0912153988 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The future of the people cannot be endangered. The region's most pressing and urgent problems, such as determining the paths toward mutual reconciliation, eliminating the current crisis, and establishing law and order in our common homeland, were discussed during the meeting Mikhail Gorbachev held with the deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet, representatives of the Azerbaijan and Armenian SSR's, and the leaders of the two republics, including those of the Azerbaijan SSR's Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO].

The USSR's popular artist and composer, Arif Mentes, who participated in the meeting, disclosed the following to an AZERINFORM correspondent on the meeting that was held at the CPSU Central Committee:

First of all, it must be noted that, during the meetings of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the CPSU Central Committee, the conferees examined with great care and with great concern the situation created in and around the

NKAO. The call made by the USSR Supreme Soviet for awareness and self-control under the existing circumstances, the importance attached to the situation, and the recommendations put forward to normalize it were furthered in the speeches made by the participants in the meetings.

The convocation once again confirmed in a concrete way that the party and government are making untiring efforts every day to eliminate the crisis, which has been continuing for many months now, and resolve the problems in our republics in an optimal and international way.

It was soberly pointed out once again that, as noted in the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decision, which is common knowledge, jurisdiction over the territory of NKAO cannot be changed.

Probably the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia are experiencing the most serious era in their [word indistinct] history. The two peoples, who have always had good-neighborly and friendly relations, are now confronted with a very serious threat. Every measure must be taken to prevent the friendship between them from turning into a hazardous situation.

Today is not the time for mutual [word indistinct], accusations, and claims for land. What should be considered at the present time is the suffering of the people and the ways of (?having the refugees return to their homes and the lands of their forefathers), lands which they have tilled with great effort.

It always must be remembered that all the claims we have put forward are not worth a single drop of human blood. Let us sit down and think about what should be done to extinguish the flame of argument. This is within our power, and it is for our own good. This is in the interest of the reconstruction drive that the party has initiated in the country.

It seems certain forces [words indistinct]. By wishing to have borders changed, provoking the people to cool their relations, and trying to disrupt interethnic justice, these forces maintain mean objectives and oppose reconstruction.

Nevertheless, they should understand that they cannot trifle with the future of the people.

I belong to an era in which the Soviet people experienced war in their childhood, Stalinism in their youth, and stagnation in their maturity. At a time when our people are moving toward modernization and when the principles of democratization and openness are becoming more widespread, our task is to do everything possible to maintain this strengthening process.

The intellectuals have an extremely responsible role in the present situation. They must influence public opinion. However, can we sincerely say that we have taken a high stand vis-a-vis the present situation? Although it may be difficult to admit, we must say that we have not.

Mikhail Gorbachev asked me during the intervals we had at the meeting at the Central Committee to compose a symphony on all this. I said it would be a tragic symphony. However, I believe now that the conclusion of the composition should be as illuminated as the faith of our people and [words indistinct].

The people are confident that prudence and awareness will prevail.

Latvian People's Forum Opens in Riga 10 Dec

LD1012170688 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Riga December 10 TASS—The forum of peoples of Latvia opened in the Latvian capital today. This Soviet Baltic republic is populated by representatives of more than 100 nationalities.

The forum was addressed by Jan Vagris, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, and Anatoliy Gorbunov, president of the presidium of the supreme soviet of the republic.

The forum, held under the keynote "Latvia—Our Common Home", is attended by more than 900 delegates who will discuss ways of solving economic and environmental problems, creating the model of the consolidation of forces to make perestroyka successful. The delegates are exploring ways which will show how to live and work together in the name of common noble goals, humanism and democracy, and preserve the national diversity of society.

The tragedy in Armenia, when not only all peoples of the Soviet Union but also many states extended their helping hand to Armenians, highlighted the need for such unity. The delegates at the forum observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of earthquake victims. Donations were collected.

In the morning long before the start of the forum, the sound of bells at Russian Orthodox and Catholic Churches announced the beginning of prayer. The believers prayed for easing the sufferings of the Armenian people and for the forum to pass under the sign of goodwill.

All Ethnic Groups Represented

LD0912175888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The first forum of the peoples of Latvia opens today. This is an important event in the republic's political life. A wide and unprejudiced discussion of

intranational relations, the problems of the economy, migration, the linguistic status,the environment, and historical truth will lead, we hope, to greater mutual understanding.

The 469 delegates to the forum represent all ethnic groups living in Latvia. The delegates have been elected on a territorial and production basis. Various national cultural societies are represented: the Balto-Slav, the Ukrainian, the German, the Jewish, the Polish, the Armenian, and others, as well as religious organizations. [passage omitted]

Speakers Address Forum

LD1112190588 [Editorial Report] Riga in Latvian to Europe at 0830 GMT on 11 December, in its "Amber Coast" program, carries a report by Imants Austrins on the second day of the Latvian Peoples Forum in Riga.

The reporter begins by noting that the session began with discussion on the suffering of the people of Armenia and on ways of alleviating it, and goes on to ask why it has become necessary for Latvia to make efforts to achieve intranational understanding. He concludes that this is due to the deformation of relations between peoples in the Stalinist and post-Stalinist periods and to an increase in mutual incomprehension. Many speakers at the forum, he says, discussed how to halt and counteract this process.

Austrins then introduces a recording of the speech at the forum by Professor Ilga Apine, corresponding member of the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences, who says: "I have no doubt that events in our republic take place more dynamically than in other republics. Because of this, we are not always understood in some other republics—sometimes we are not even understood by other inhabitants of our own republic."

Tatyana Arshavska, member of the support group of the Russian peoples scientific and cultural workers and formerly a member of the organizing committee of the Latvian Peoples Forum, speaking in Russian, said: "Many people remember with sorrow the time when there was no nationality problem in Latvia, when people were proud of their indifference toward membership in a nationality and saw it as an example of a world outlook. We have gradually forgotten the distinctiveness of nationalities," she says, "and have become merged into the unified mass which we call the Soviet people. Not many people understand today that the national self-awareness of the Latvian people was preserved during the Stalin years and the stagnation not thanks to but despite the nationalities policy."

She goes on to warn: "In Latvia today there is a serious, even dangerous, difference between the small, more progressive section of the Russian intelligentsia and the majority of the Russian people who are still not ready to accept Latvia's sovereignty."

The reporter asks how the mechanical merging of the various nationalities in the USSR can be halted. He notes that in the east of the republic there are more than 29,000 Latvians who do not use the Latvian language as their mother tongue, and that the process of assimilation is continuing.

The views of the Latvian SSR Government on this are explained by Anatoliy Gorbunov, chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who notes the need to recognize the interests of the Latvian nation and of the nationalities living in Latvia. He goes on to mention some of the minorities in the republic such as the Livonians. He concludes by pointing out that any solution to the problem of the nationalities policy must be based on the "very simple and very understandable thesis that no group of people can be happy if their rights are based on the lack of rights of other peoples."

The reporter ends the program by noting that further reports on the Lativian Peoples Forum will be broadcast.

Forum Concludes Work 11 Dec

LD1112233788 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The first Lativian Peoples Forum concluded its work in Riga today. [video shows delegates in their seats]

[Unidentified correspondent] The 950 delegates, representing more than 100 peoples and ethnic groups living in Latvia, journalists, and guests who were gathered at the historic forum in the republic paid tribute to the memory of those who perished in Armenia by observing a minute's silence. A collection was also organized here at the forum. The republic is sending medics and construction workers and parcels with food and clothing, and is preparing to receive the little children and people who have lost their homes and relatives. Hundreds of volunteers are giving their blood to save the injured. The soul of the people is never closed to goodness, and this is demonstrated strikingly now at a time of misfortune, when there is strength in unity and the ability to withstand and pass through the most difficult adversity.

It is their great and shining hope to discuss candidly the problems of their own family of many tribes and the issues of concern to the republic: Latvia is our common home—that is the slogan of the present forum. [video shows interviews in foyer with delegates identified by caption; distribution of a news sheet entitled "The Forum of Peoples of the Latvian SSR"]

[Correspondent] What hopes do you pin on the Forum of the Peoples of Latvia? [passage omitted]

[A.V. Gorbunov, chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, identified by screen caption] We wish, first and foremost, for the union of the peoples of Latvia to develop, for every person who works and lives in Latvia to be proud of it, both of the results of his personal labor and of his republic, and for the national groups—those who live here in Latvia—to develop their own language and their own culture, not with a view of detaching themselves but with a view, on the contrary, to uniting, because when you know yourself you can respect the other person who works and lives next to you. Of course we will not only discuss the problems of language and the problems of culture. Even now we are hearing about the problems in the development of the economy of the republic, problems of ecology, problems of immigration, and the specific problems of every town and rayon which have arisen in this respect.

Further on 22 Nov Latvian Supreme Soviet

LD0912140188 [Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 0700 GMT on 22 November continues its recording of the Latvian Supreme Soviet session of 22 November following the interval in the proceedings.

Session Chairman Gorbunov announces that he has received a petition "with about 120 signatures." He says "it is difficult for me to say how these signatures have been collected; I do not exclude the possibility that the petition was signed right here by our building." Gorbunov then proceeds to read the petition, as follows:

"Taking into account the proposed corrections, the amendments to the USSR Constitution will inevitably be adopted with entirely inessential alterations. Not desiring for the country to be excessively centralized at the expense of the rights of union republics, we demand:

"That a law be adopted without delay to say that the Latvian SSR is a sovereign state and that the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet has the right of veto in respect of normative acts, at any level, over the USSR organs of pwoer, including the USSR Constitution."

Gorbunov goes on to say:

"In this connection I would like to say:

"First, concerning the point that corrections and amendments to the Constitution will inevitably be adopted with entirely inessential alterations, I categorically cannot agree that those which have already been made are inessential alterations. Of course I also cannot guarantee to anybody that the USSR Supreme Soviet will adopt all the proposals we submitted. After all, they must be formulated, and they must be fought for.

"As for the second part, I tried in my address to explain specifically—probably I did not succeed in this—that such rights of veto formulated here will backfire in the first place against us, the Baltic republics, against those republics which do not have their own minerals or sources of energy, and against those republics which have begun the road of progressive transformations, namely economic reform.

"I do not want to comment on what we discussed at our meeting in Moscow. But there it became clear that Kazakhstan, for example, is now against the decentralization of economic life because that republic would have to undertake the management of all-union enterprises, of all-union enterprises.

"Moreover, of course, if the rights of veto are formulated in such a way that we do not adopt any kind of progressive decision in the union—I am not saying this to agitate for the resolution and proposals of the Supreme Soviet Presidium—the attitude toward them could be very critical. I am saying this only because there is a signed petition; nevertheless, people do not understand these details. I think, once again, that the republic must have rights of veto in our proposals. The question is merely how to formulate them. A group of jurists has devised the proposals, which you now have.

"If any deputy is able to propose another version, in which these rights of veto could be more effectively utilized, I think we would all welcome it because we understand very well that realistic, constructive, and wise proposals will be much easier for us to defend in Moscow, and many (?times) easier to back up and put into effect. And you will understand that the converse is also true.

"Because of that I regarded it as my duty to comment on this petition and also, to a certain extent, reply to those who have signed it."

Gorbunov continues:

"I think all of us must be honest and not launch some kind of game here. After this session we must be able to say that we adopted an honest resolution, the kind of resolution that deputies are able to vote for, and, most importantly, a resolution that will produce some results for us. In the present day a path taken by, let us say, an ultimatum, or by something else—by closing the door to talks—does not produce anything of use either to the world or anything else. I, of course, apologize; this is already a whole speech that I am making.

"I remember very well, when some talks began, you will probably remember, in Europe. Led by Comrade Chernenko, we favored arms reduction and other questions. And, led by Comrade Chernenko, we closed the door to talks, and we very haughtily announced: We have nothing to say. After a time we turned around and said that we had something to do, that we must, after all, achieve arms reduction, and we acted.

"This is perhaps not an example which one could cite to these comrades. I only wanted to expound the principle itself and at the same time my own stance, which I do not want, by any means, to impose either on the deputies or on the others present as some kind of a personal standpoint of mine. I simply commented on the proposals and resolution of the Latvian State University, Ministry of Justice, the People's Front activists, and the Presidium."

The next to speak after Gorbunov is Yevgeniy Petrovich Dyachkov, managing director of a fuel association, and then E.L. Svars, first secretary of the Aluksne raykom, who talks about political sovereignty. As the leading jurists of the republic are present, he says, he wants to appeal to them "to explain to the people how the terms sovereignty and a sovereign state are understood in international norms. What do we understand by it? What are the characteristics of this sovereign state? And to explain how sovereign is our republic at the present moment? Which of these characteristics are we lacking?" "What is our final goal"?

Next, Gorbunov speaks again. He mentions applications received for specific proposals to be submitted by those who are not deputies, and there is a brief discussion about passing them on to the elected commission or, with the help of the presidium staff, to comment on them or send them to Moscow.

After Gorbunov, Janis Blums, chairman of the "Jaunais Komunars" kolkhoz in Saldus rayon, talks about the need for unity by "all the peoples living in Latvia". As a Latvian, he says, he desires a sovereign Latvia, but "our fathers fought for Latvia to be free in a free Russia." Now, too, he says, the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet should act according to these principles. What would happen, he asks, "if we became an independent country"?

Blums goes on to read a resolution adopted at a meeting of Saldus Rayon electors on 21 November:

"Having acquainted itself with the draft law on alterations to the USSR Constitution and on alterations to election regulations, the meeting believes that the USSR Constitution must take into account the interests of each union republic and must not contain principles which are in conflict with the interests of republics."

The resolution continues:

"We believe that the indirect election of deputies from public organizations does not conform with the principles of democracy, as it actually reduces the representation of union republics in the USSR Supreme Soviet."

The resolution also says:

"The meeting believes that the rights of veto are necessary to the supreme soviets of union republics in deciding questions concerning the territory or inhabitants of the corresponding republic. The meeting decides fully to support the resolution of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the proposals in connection with the USSR draft law on alterations and amendments to the USSR Constitution and on the election of USSR people's deputies and the proposals drawn up in this connection; to propose that the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet announce Latvian economic independence following the example of Estonia; to demand for the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet rights of veto on questions concerning the republic's territory or inhabitants; to draw up and confirm the Latvian SSR Constitution."

Further, the resolution states:

"To propose that the commission of the Kuldiga constituency examine the question of recalling USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Retired Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Sergey Gorshkov from the post of deputy; as he retired on a pension he is detached from the everyday problems of his electors and is not able to defend them adequately at the USSR Supreme Soviet. To propose to nominate as a candidate deputy to the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet from the Kuldiga constituency Anatoliy Gorbunov, chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium." Having read the resolution, Blums talks about the concern of electors over the exceedingly short period given to the constitutional alterations, and mentions the rather acute relations in the republic between the press, radio, and television, "even with the assistance of the Central Committee."

Gorbunov speaks next. He thanks those present for the trust expressed in him and continues: "But there is also a small unethical aspect here, as I understand, because your Deputy Comrade Gorshkov, unfortunately, died 6 months ago".

Poet Imants Ziedonis then addresses the session, saying that in this complicated situation, when the meaning of the drafts was not explained to large numbers of the people because Soviet establishments and party organizations were in a hurry, the most logical and honest approach was reflected in the conclusion of the jurists conference and the proposals of the People's Front. In the name of his electors and in his own name, he states that the existing versions of draft amendments to the Constitution are unacceptable. He says: "I propose, and this is also proposed by the electors of my constituency—as recently as at a meeting with me yesterday—to adopt the drafts only on condition that sovereignty is guaranteed. These could be amendments to the Presidium's proposals. In other words, our republic's supreme soviet could declare that, until such a time as Latvian sovereignty is guaranteed, only those laws adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet which have been ratified by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet will be in force in the Latvian SSR."

Ziedonis says that his constituents have said that, in the event the USSR Supreme Soviet on 29 November does not adopt the republic's proposals, then the declaration on Latvian SSR sovereignty drawn up by the People's Front should be discussed.

Ziedonis criticizes the "demagogic bosses" who "have greatly plundered our republic, ecologically ruined it, and continue to be parasites at the expense of the republic's meager cultural budget.

"I propose devoting one of the next sessions of the Supreme Soviet to only— I underline only—a discussion of the republic's cultural situation in order to draw up a law on maintaining the republic's cultural environment."

He continues: "The Supreme Soviet's cultural commission should devote meetings to joint discussions, separately with each commission of the Supreme Soviet, in order to work out a new approach to the republic's cultural program. This should be done within a year so that approval of the next budget and plan can take place on the basis of the new thinking."

Ziedonis goes on to explain that these meetings are needed because the people are angry at being used, and he compares Latvia to a "continuously pregnant woman," who is never allowed to recover her strength.

Citing the lack of facilities for cultural purposes and lack of children's books, he then goes on to criticize the "invasion by all-union establishements" of vacation centers and says that Latvian families with ill children have almost no chance of having a vacation.

Ziedonis says: "Our Latvian people must have the opportunity to return from the colonies which have been scattered over the union—I am talking about the old ones, the colonies of the tsarist era—and Latvians around the world must be given an opportunity to return and make democratic—truly democratic—national, and progressive contributions to our culture. For our people, whose numbers are diminishing, it is important deographically to bring together all Latvians."

Gorbunov says he fully supports what Ziedonis said, but some aspects concern him as chairman of the session. He says: "Ziedonis proposes changing some articles of our Constitution, articles of the Latvian SSR Constiution. However, as you know, as you know, such proposed changes must at least be on the agenda of the session. This is one point.

"Second, I can only express a personal opinion. As chairman of the session, changes to the Constitution naturally must be discussed at least at the Supreme Soviet Presidium; I am not speaking about the deputies' permanent commissions, and so on.

"It can also be said that, like the unfortunate experience with the discussion of these drafts, additional proposed changes must be submitted to the people for discussion.

"Therefore I believe that, irrespective of who proposed these proposals and irrespective of where they have been supported, we must act consistently with regard to a question that is as important as changing our Constitution."

Gorbunov then responds to "calls for him to act" and "hopes that he will do a very great deal of good for the republic." He says that even if these changes were implemented, Latvia would still not attain sovereignty. Gorbunov explains: "We will not attain it because of one circumstance. I know that Comrade Gorbachev emphasized this while he was in India. He said that changing things would be very good for us, that is adopting such a resolution or such alterations to the Constitution on the status of the USSR and the union republics. Unfortunately, this is not possible now. Comrade Gorbachev-...[changes thought] I have to be in Moscow and I will have to speak about this question. But after all, he told us clearly and in a straightforward manner, comrades, that we cannot at this time include in this resolution the competence of the USSR and the status of the USSR, the status of the union and the status of the union republics. This is for the next stage. Therefore I cannot, after all, make efforts today—either by moving slowly or quickly—to reach such a goal, such a goal as has been proposed, if there are no preparations for reaching such a goal now."

The next speaker is Latvian SSR Social Security Minister Luss, who speaks about sovereignty and the federation confederation issue, and asks whether the unity of the union will not be threatened in such a circumstance. She says that the proposal for a veto would weaken the union. Luss says that she met with her electors but could not reflect their standpoint. She says they were small groups and the majority does not object to the constitutional alterations.

Luss states that she disagrees with the session's assessment that the mass media have done a good job, and says she is in complete agreement with the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau resolution that there would not have been such a tense situation "if the mass media, first of all television, had not adhered to the standpoint of one group." She states her support for the work and the draft resolution on the proposals of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Gvido Zemribo, chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Court and chairman of the commission at the session for this item on the agenda, says that the commission thoroughly examined the Presidium's draft resolution. He says a majority of speakers supported the resolution, and therefore there is no need for a different one. The commission deletes only one portion from the Latvian text they had been guided by: the second paragraph. The

commission was guided by considerations that if they gave a more positive assessment, then cooresponding negative emotions would be expressed, but then it was not clear why the Supreme Soviet Presidium would have to adopt this special resolution at all.

Deputy Vitols from Vainode then proposes supplementing the resolution, but Zemribo says the draft resolution should be voted on.

In the vote on the draft resolution, which is taken by a show of hands, the announcer says there were eight abstentions and no votes against.

Zemribo then reads the proposal of Deputy Vitols to supplement the resolution by item 4: "To consider the proposals and corrections to the USSR draft laws on alterations and amendments to the USSR Constitution, the Basic Law, and election of people's deputies submitted by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium compulsory preconditions in the democratization and adoption of these documents." Zemribo draws attention to item 1, "which says: to accept the standpoint expressed in the resolution of 17 November 1988 passed by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the USSR draft laws on alterations and amendments to the USSR Constitution, the Basic Law, and the election of USSR people's deputies."

Vitols then says: "Why did I make such a proposal? You see, because it is very probable. I am not a pessimist. It is very probable that out of all these very well-composed, juridically substantiated proposals which our Supreme Soviet Presidium has advanced to Moscow, some one-third—about which Comrade Gorbunov reported yesterday—will be highlighted but perhaps not accepted. I vote for these proposals, but I do not want to vote for corrections to the Constitution if these proposals are not included. This is not just my own opinion; I have been authorized by the electors."

Zemribo then says that item 1 could be combined with this proposal. "To combine, but under the editorship of Comrade Vitols," says Gorbunov.

Zemribo says: "To combine, supplementing with the remark by Comrade Vitols to regard these proposals submitted by the Supreme Soviet Presidium as a compulsory precondition in the democratization and adoption of these documents. Like that, then. If the deputies agree with that."

Gorbunov says that a vote should be taken on each such proposal, and then asks Lativan KGB Chairman Zukulisto speak.

Zukulis says: "I see the Supreme Soviet, the USSR Supreme Soviet. This would not be democratic. This is my personal opinion."

Gorbunov then says: "Thank you. What are the opinions of other deputies?"

A man identified as Comrade Barkans then says: "I propose something else in this connection. I believe that one paragraph should be added to this document because this is a law on the rights of veto in the instances if..."

Gorbunov interrupts him to say: "Excuse me, Comrade Barkans, but perhaps we should end with this point and then take the next one."

Barkans continues, saying: "I would like to express my opinion on this point. If our unclear proposal and the proposal of Comrade Vitols is not accepted there, we must not immediately doubt whether they will ever be accepted. However, the rights of veto must nevertheless be preserved for the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet by (?introducing) a new paragraph into this law.

Gorbunov asks: "But Comrade Barkans, what objections do you have to the veto version expressed in the draft?"

Barkans answers: "Yes. The veto version expressed in the draft does not explain in what instances this veto would be implemented and who would do it." Barkans goes on to explain that the right to veto should be exercised only in defending Latvian sovereignty, and says: "We cannot have the right to appeal against something adopted in the Kazakh Republic or somewhere else, and they also cannot have the right to appeal against something we do not accept. Your opinion on how this veto could harm our republic, in my opinion, is not substantiated."

Gorbunov responds: "Comrade Barkans, insofar as you mentioned me, I (?hope) to reply to you. I said that the same rights we are asking for ourselves, that the very same rights, with regard to sovereignty, will be utilized by Kazakhstan and by the Chukchi Autonomous Oblast. I apologize. In no way did I mean to offend a people and a nationality here. However, if I have I apologize. They would not use their veto in our affairs, but would use the exact same kind of veto with regard to their own fuel, energy, and other matters."

Zembribo then asks Barakans: "Would you have any objection to sending your proposal together with other proposals to the Presidium? In this way we can then resolve this question; we can regard the entire question as exhausted."

Barkans responds: "I propose taking a vote on whether to include the proposal concretely in the law."

Zemribo asks whether in the law or in the resolution. Barakans says: "In the resolution. To my mind, the document is called the resolution."

Gorbunov then talks about being consistent: "Let us consistently rewrite all the items which refer to a concrete alteration of the Constitution."

After a pause, Gorbunov asks whether Comrade Skulme would like to talk about this question, and she replies that she fully agrees with Ziedonis.

Gorbunov says: "You know, there is nothing complicated here. Let us take this item out of a concrete correction to the Constitution, where we already had it worked out and developed. And let us write in..." The recording then breaks off.

Scientific

Soviet-French Crew Carries Out Space Walk

LD0912212988 Moscow TASS in English 1901 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—By TASS correspondents Vladimir Isachenkov and Yuriy Shevyakov at the ground control center:

Cosmonauts Aleksandr Volkov and Jean-Loup Chretien took a space walk on Friday, which lasted six hours instead of scheduled four hours 20 minutes.

The two opened the airlock hatch at 12:57 to begin the joint extra-vehicular activity (EVA) codenamed Era, while their orbiting station Mir was over the Japanese isles in the Pacific.

Chretien was the first to step out. Leaning out of the hatch up to his waist and helped by Volkov from inside, he attached removable handrails and fixed himself to a special platform.

After the equipment involved in the experiment as well as a TV and photographic cameras were taken out and fastened to the outer wall, Volkov got out as well.

The cosmonauts left a panel with samples of different materials and pickups, which will register micrometeorite flows, on the outer wall. It will stay there for more than six months before being removed and returned to earth for analysis.

A platform for assembling an unfolding structure from carbon plastic tubes was mounted on the airlock. It took somewhat longer than planned to lay a cable linking it to the control panel inside Mir.

But the most dramatic moment came when the structure failed to unfold after being ordered to do so by Sergey Krikalev at the control panel. Acting on it with vibration didn't help either.

Flight directors and Soviet and French specialists responsible for the experiment held an urgent meeting to discuss the emergency. It was decided to jettison the structure if it remained motionless.

But when the station entered the zone of radio contact with the research ship Academic Sergey Korolev after making another orbit, the cosmonauts reported the gladdening news that the deployment mechanism had ultimately done its job and all the scheduled tests involving the structure been performed.

According to Deputy Flight Manager Viktor Blagov, the cause of the initial failure to unfold would be finally clarified after talks with the crew and an analysis of telemetry data.

Having completed their work, the cosmonauts returned to the airlock and, the locking procedures over, will get back into the station.

The working day on board Mir will end at 22:00.

Space Walk Completed

LD0912173288 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—Cosmonauts Aleksandr Volkov and Jean-Loup Chretien have completed a space walk and returned to the Mir orbiting station.

They tested an unfolding structure, made of plastic tubes, and left on the station's surface samples of materials which will, for more than six months, be exposed to the space environment.

Six Ships Under Way in Antarctic Expedition

LD1112233288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Summary] Six ships from the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet are involved in the 34th Soviet Antarctic expedition. The "Akademik Fedorov" has already left Leningrad with two Mi-8 helicopters and an Il-14 airplane on board. There are 85 crew members and about 160 experts who will continue the work in the Antarctic. The ship will carry out oceanographic, aerometerological, geophysical, hydrochemical, hydrographic, glacial, and other research during its voyage. The crew will operate in the area of seven Soviet stations, including the seasonal ones on the coast of the east and west Antarctic. The "Akademik Fedorov's" voyage is proceeding according to plan.

Military

General Explains Military Academy Restructuring

LD1012134388 [Editorial report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1000 GMT on 10 December broadcasts an 11-minute report by correspondent Kukholev on the occasion of he 70th anniversary of the founding of the Moscow Military Academy named after M.V. Frunze.

The program opens with a brief summary of the history of the academy, where prominent Soviet military officers were trained. Kukholev states that among its first teachers were prominent military scientists, officers, and generals in the old Tsarist army. Tukhachevskiy was the first Communist appointed to head the academy. "Nowadays, the Frunze Military Academy is not only a forge for turning out commanding cadres, it is also one of the centers of military-scientific thought in the Soviet Armed Forces," notes Kukholev. The academy teaches how to manage troops and combat situations; it teaches efficient and creative thinking and ways of effectively defeating aggressors in any situation.

The next part of the report features Kukholev's visit to the operative-tactical computer lecture, where the students from command studies faculty are engaged. There are two basic faculties in the academy: command and intelligence, he says and goes on to describe the lecture. A group led by Colonel Petrov is engaged in modelling combat actions with the use of "staff mathematical models" [shtabnye matematicheskiye modeli]. Petrov explains that based on mathematical models, the students are determining quantitative indicators for assessing their own variants of military actions in order to defeat the enemy. Each student uses a computer terminal.

Kukholev then talks to three students, two of whom are majors and one of whom is a lieutenant colonel. All of them fought in Afghanistan. They present their recollections of this and voice their resolve to be a credit to the academy in their future careers. In this connection, Kukholev notes that the "academy is, of course, a jumping-off point for a career." The officers express agreement and say that the knowledge received at the academy will promote their climb up the service ladder.

Kukholev then talks to Lieutenant General Aleksandr Stepanovich Gudkov, head of the academy's political department, about the way the academy is restructuring its work so that the training of command cadres can be improved. Gudkov says: 'Restructuring in the academy is proceeding along an all-party and all-state course. Just as everywhere else, great importance is given to democratization and glasnost. If you talk specifically about the teaching process, then the main thrust of restructuring is not only to give people sound, profound, and fundamental theoretical knowledge, but the main thing is to teach people to think, to be alert. This is so that any decision made will lead to achieving a high end result with the smallest possible loss of efforts and means. For this purpose, preference is given to active forms of teaching: seminars, discussions, question and answer sessions, simulation games, training, exercises, and to (?team work). Even the traditional educational format of lecturing is being restructured. It is not simply the knowledge that is now passed on during the lecture, but a dialogue is held on life as it really is and shortcomings, during which various viewpoints are expressed. Students are shown how to search for the most efficient and correct solution."

Gudkov proceeds to list the actions taken by the academy in restructuring the educational process. New programs and plans have been outlined. Much has been done to create material bases of education, including the introduction of computer technology into the teaching process. "One of the most important tasks, which we set ourselves in teaching and educating our graduates, is the task that side by side with deep professional knowledge the graduate possesses the art of finding a way to the heart of the people under him," says Gudkov.

Yefimov, Others Sign Officer's Obituary

PM1212101388 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 88 First Edition p 6

[Obituary of V.N. Yatskevich]

[Excerpts] Aviation Major General Vladimir Nikolayevich Yatskevich, member of the Military Council and chief of the Air Force Political Department of Odessa Military District, has died suddenly. He devoted all his adult life to the selfless service of our motherland, the Soviet people, and the Communist Party, of which he had been a member since 1960.

V.N. Yatskevich was born into a employee's family in the city of Ussuriysk, Maritime Kray, in 1937. [passage omitted]

A.N. Yefimov, G.A. Stefanovskiy, L.L. Batekhin, V.Ye. Pankin, A.F. Borsuk, N.G. Shishkov, V.M. Pishkin, A.N. Zakrevskiy, A.S. Goryainov, V.V. Yefanov, and P.S. Deynekin.